

How Long?

“How long have you been...” is used to ask how long someone has a) done an activity for or b) done a job. The action started in the past and either a) finished in the past or b) is still happening until now.

Examples:

- How long have you been + noun
 - How long have you been an architect?
 - I’ve been an architect for 15 years

- How long have you been a skier?
 - I’ve been skiing for 15 years.

How long have you been + verb~ing

- How long have you been skiing?*
- I’ve been skiing for 3 hours.

Or

- I’ve been skiing for 10 years.

*Context has to be used to determine if the question refers to the recent past or a longer period of time.

- “How long have you been in” is used for a professional field, or a place
- How long have you been in business?*
- I’ve been in business for 25 years.

or

- We’ve been in business since 1995.

*This question can also mean, “How long has this store/business been open?”

- How long have you been in architecture?
- I've been in architecture for 12 years.

- "How long have you been into + noun" is used to express an interest in something
- How long have you been into art?
 - I've been into art since I took an art class in college.
 - How long have you been into Karate?
 - I've been into Karate since 1995.

This meaning of "How long have you been into" can also be used with +ing for hobbies.

- How long have you been into blading*.
- For about 10 years now.

*blading = rollerblading = in-line skating

What is something you're really into? = What is a hobby you really like?

I'm really into jogging.

BE CAREFUL with 'been into + nouns'. If you use the plural form, it means you are sexually interested in this category of people. That is, you find people from this group sexually attractive.

Ex.

- Woman 1: How long have you been into actors?
- Woman 2: Since I dated Johnny Depp.

Practice:

Make questions using "How long have you been" with the words given below. Be sure to use the correct preposition/articles and the following nouns

Ex.

1. a teacher

Q: How long have you been a teacher?

2. a cyclist

Q: _____

3. business (ask how long a business has been open)

Q: _____

4. judo (ask how long someone has really liked doing judo)

Q: _____

5. soccer players (ask how long someone has found soccer players sexually attractive)

Q: _____

6. a jogger

Q: _____

Now answer the questions you made.

Make five more "How long have you been questions to ask your partner".