

I Brushed My Teeth in January

Time expressions with Past Simple and Present Perfect poems activities

Read the poem below and discuss which verse (pair of lines) you think is silliest. Then ask about any lines you don't understand.

I haven't slept or drunk since June.
I hope to do so very soon.

I've only eaten chocolate twice.
Once with potatoes and once with rice.

I haven't breathed since half past ten.
I'm not quite sure what happened then.

I haven't eaten since December.
But I had two breakfasts in November.

I have only climbed a mountain once.
I did it for eleven months.

I got up late on the seventh.
And got to school on the eleventh.

I've been waiting for weeks and weeks.
Can't wait till my plant grows up and speaks.

Won at the races? I haven't yet.
But then again I've never bet.

I've been knitting gloves since May.
I finished a finger yesterday.

On Sunday I slept very late.
I got up at twenty five to eight.

I learnt Greek two weeks ago.
But why I did I do not know.

I brushed my teeth in January.
And then again in February.

I can't explain the many ways.
That I've got lost in the last five days.

I haven't had a shower recently.
But I did in nineteen eighty three.

Matching lines activity

Without looking at the whole poem for now, try to put the lines on the right-hand side in the right place under the lines on the left, thinking about what makes sense, what words rhyme, what times match, etc. The poem is split into two parts to make the activity easier, so you only need to look in half of the poem for each answer.

Section 1

I haven't slept or drunk since June.	And got to school on the eleventh.
I've only eaten chocolate twice.	But I had two breakfasts in November.
I haven't breathed since half past ten.	I hope to do so very soon.
I haven't eaten since December.	I'm not quite sure what happened then.
I have only climbed a mountain once.	I did it for eleven months.
I got up late on the seventh.	Once with potatoes and once with rice.

Section 2

I've been waiting for weeks and weeks.	And then again in February.
Won at the races? I haven't yet.	But I did in nineteen eighty three.
I've been knitting gloves since May.	But then again I've never bet.
On Sunday I slept very late.	But why I did I do not know.
I learnt Greek two weeks ago.	Can't wait till my plant grows up and speaks.
I brushed my teeth in January.	I finished a finger yesterday.
I can't explain the many ways.	I got up at twenty five to eight.
I haven't had a shower recently.	That I've got lost in the last five days.

Ending sentences activity easier version

Without looking below for now, try to think of words which would fit the gaps below, making sure that they rhyme, make sense and match grammatically.

I haven't slept or drunk since _____.
I hope to do so very soon.

I've only eaten chocolate _____.
Once with potatoes and once with rice.

I haven't breathed since half past _____.
I'm not quite sure what happened then.

I haven't eaten since December.
But I had two breakfasts in _____.

I have only climbed a mountain _____.
I did it for eleven months.

I got up late on the seventh.
And got to school on the _____.

I've been waiting for weeks and _____.
Can't wait till my plant grows up and speaks.

Won at the races? I haven't _____.
But then again I've never bet.

I've been knitting gloves since May.
I finished a finger _____.

On Sunday I slept very late.
I got up at twenty five to _____.

I learnt Greek two weeks _____.
But why I did I do not know.

I brushed my teeth in _____.
And then again in February.

I can't explain the many ways.
That I've got lost in the last five _____.

I haven't had a shower recently.
But I did in nineteen eighty _____.

Mixed answers

Put the words below into the gaps above, thinking about rhyming, meaning and grammar.

ago

days

eight

eleventh

January

June

November

once

ten

three

twice

weeks

yesterday

yet

Ending sentences activity more difficult version

Put these words into the gaps below, thinking about rhyme, meaning and grammar.

ago	bet	days	December	eight	eleventh	February
January	June	know	late	May	months	November
once	recently	rice	seventh	soon	speaks	ten
then	three	twice	ways	weeks	yesterday	yet

I haven't slept or drunk since _____.

I hope to do so very _____.

I've only eaten chocolate _____.

Once with potatoes and once with _____.

I haven't breathed since half past _____.

I'm not quite sure what happened _____.

I haven't eaten since _____.

But I had two breakfasts in _____.

I have only climbed a mountain _____.

I did it for eleven _____.

I got up late on the _____.

And got to school on the _____.

I've been waiting for weeks and _____.

Can't wait till my plant grows up and _____.

Won at the races? I haven't _____.

But then again I've never _____.

I've been knitting gloves since _____.

I finished a finger _____.

On Sunday I slept very _____.

I got up at twenty five to _____.

I learnt Greek two weeks _____.

But why I did I do not _____.

I brushed my teeth in _____.

And then again in _____.

I can't explain the many _____.

That I've got lost in the last five _____.

I haven't had a shower _____.

But I did in nineteen eighty _____.

Look at the version with one missing line from each verse above to start checking your answers.

Check your answers with the original poem.

Time expressions with Past Simple and Present Perfect presentation

Without looking above or below for now, put suitable time expressions into the two columns below.

Time expressions with Past Simple ("I... ed..." etc)	Time expressions with Present Perfect ("I have ...ed" etc)

Without looking at the poem for now, put the time expressions below into the right columns above.

since June
twice
since half past ten
then
since December
in November
once
for eleven months
on the seventh
on the eleventh
for weeks (and weeks)
yet
never
since May
yesterday
on Sunday
at twenty five to eight
two weeks ago
in January
in February
in the last five days
not recently
in nineteen eighty three

Check with the poem.

Check the other things that you wrote above as a class.

Put these other expressions into the table above, thinking about which ones that are in the table already they are similar to.

already
since nineteen eighty five
in January
since January
since the seventh of June
three times
since ten o'clock
at ten clock
at that time
for two years
for two weeks
for a long time
the day before yesterday
on Monday
two months ago
in the last few weeks
recently