



MODERN LIVES: LIVING APART

I. BEFORE YOU READ.

You are going to read an article about married couples who do not live together. Match the words from the text in A with their definitions in B. Use a dictionary to check your answers.

A	B
the country	low cost air travel
own	divide something so two or more people can have it
spend	possess
share	it's not easy but there are advantages
it's worth it	area outside towns and cities where there are fields, woods etc.
cheap flights	pass (time)

2. READ THE ARTICLE AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BELOW.

Modern Lives

In this series we look at the different ways people live their lives. This week we meet two happily married couples. But these husbands and wives live apart

We only see each other at weekends

Clare Johnson and husband Tim live in the country, but during the week Clare has to stay in London. Clare is 42 and is a director of a big shoe corporation. John owns a Garden Centre in their village. They have no children. Clare says, 'Tim and



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I have been married for nineteen years and for the last ten years we have only spent the weekends together. In my job, I work a lot of evenings and have to be very sociable. Tim prefers a quiet life. We spend all of our weekends together and don't see anybody else. We are very happy.

Tim says, 'When Clare is at parties, I am happy to spend my evenings reading, gardening or playing the guitar. I'm very content. Our lives are very different but we love each other and share the same dreams.'

We live in different countries

Elizabeth Françoise and her husband Sebastien have been married for three years. Elizabeth is English and works as a finance manager for a bank in London.

Sebastien is a professional athlete in his native country, France.

Elizabeth says, 'I am only twenty-five and Sebastien is twenty-four so there is plenty of time before we have children. When we do see each other, it is like the romantic weekend we had when we first met in Paris. When people ask about living apart, I tell them that it's hard work, but it's worth it.'

Sebastien says, 'We talk on the phone every day, and now there are cheap flights from France to England it is much easier. We both enjoy our jobs and I have two months' holiday every year, which we spend together.'

Match the jobs to the correct people:

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| a. Clare Johnson | athlete |
| b. Tim Johnson | company director |
| c. Elizabeth Françoise | garden centre owner |
| d. Sebastien Françoise | finance manager |



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3. READ THE TEXT AGAIN.

Look at the sentences below and choose the correct word from the choices in *italics*.

- a. Clare and Tim have a house in *a rural / an urban* area.
- b. Next year will be Clare and Tim's *nineteenth / twentieth* wedding anniversary.
- c. Clare and Tim *rarely / usually* spend the weekend together.
- d. Tim plays a *sport / musical instrument*.
- e. Sebastien is *older / younger* than Elizabeth.
- f. Elizabeth and Sebastien first met in *London / Paris*.

4. STUDY THESE EXAMPLES FROM THE ARTICLE.

'Tim and I have been married for nineteen years.'

'..for the last ten years we have only spent the weekends together.'

'Elizabeth Françoise and her husband Sebastien have been married for three years.'



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Each of these examples describes a situation which started in the past and which continues to the present (for example, Tim and Clare married 19 years ago but they are still married today).

The tense used in these examples is the **present perfect simple**.

The present perfect simple is made from the auxiliary verb **have** (or **has** for he / she / it) + **the past participle**.

The contracted form of **have** is **'ve**, (for example **I've**). The contracted form of **has** is **'s**, (for example **She's**).

Study these examples of sentences containing the present perfect simple and answer the questions below.

I have been a teacher for ten years.
We have lived in France since 1995.

a. Choose the correct word in *italics* to complete the grammar rules:

We use *for* / *since* before a period of time, e.g. two weeks, six months or ten years.

We use *for* / *since* before giving the time an activity or situation begins, such as 2 o'clock, January, 1995.

b. Complete the sentences below with the words *since* or *for*.

He has worked at this school _____ twenty years.

We've had the same car _____ 2003.

He's been a doctor _____ six months.

I've known him _____ September.



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5. EXPRESSION.

Do you think a marriage like Clare and Tim's can be successful? Give reasons for your answer.