

DESDE/DESDE QUE

We use them to talk about the point in time when something started.



Vivo en Praga **desde 2018**.
Vivo en Praga **desde que** empecé a estudiar en la universidad.

I'm living in Prague at the moment, and I want to say that I've been doing so since 2018. The second example also says when exactly this started, but with a sentence. That is why we need *que*.

HACE QUE/DESDE HACE

We use them to talk about how long we've been doing something.



Vivo en Praga **desde hace 5 años**.
Hace 5 años que vivo en Praga.

I'm living in Prague at the moment and I want to say that I've been doing so for five years. The second example is the same, just the structure is different. We use *desde hace* in the middle of the sentence and *hace...que* at the beginning.

HACE

We use it to talk about how long it's been since something happened.



Acabé mis estudios **hace 5 años**.
He empezado a trabajar **hace poco**.

In the first example, we look back to the past to say how long it's been since we finished our studies. The difference here is that we're not studying anymore (pret.indefinido is used for actions that finished and are not connected to the present.) It could be translated as "I finished my studies 5 years ago."

The second example is very similar, but we use pret.perfecto because in this case I'm still working. However, I don't want to focus on how long I've been working, I just want to say how long it's been since this happened. That is the difference between *hace* and *desde hace*.

Compare:

Trabajo en esta empresa desde hace poco tiempo

vs.

He empezado a trabajar en esta empresa hace poco tiempo.

The difference in meaning is very small, but the second case always points out when the action started (*he empezado*), and the first just focuses on the fact that I've been working there for some time. They could be translated as:

"I've been working in this company for a short time."

"I've started working in this company a short time ago." (I've recently started working here.)