Grammar bites I

choosing between during, for & since, and getting the tenses right

Choosing the right word

	Duration	Event
Pendant	for	during
Depuis	for	since

Tenses with 'during'

- * During the rest of the conversation he remained sitting (Plato)
- * During the treatment, the part should be bathed with plenty of warm water (Hippocrates)

THE TENSE CORRESPONDS TO THE CONTEXT

Tenses with 'for'

* pendant: tense corresponds to general context

He is to be kept on a spare diet for ten days (Hippocrates)

* depuis: present perfect

Here for ten long years have I remained. (Sophocles)

or pluperfect

He forgot that Arruntius had been kept at home now for ten

years (Tacitus)

Tenses with 'since'

- * **puisque**: tense corresponds to context

 Since it would be absurd to advise the patient to take something hot (Hippocrates)
- * depuis : present perfect
 Since then, we have spoken of the primary element (Aristotle)
 or pluperfect
 - Since the death of Craterus no man had been so much talked of in the army (Plutarch)

NB: if a verb follows 'since' it should be simple past tense

'Since the structure of DNA was discovered, scientists have made great progress.

Understanding the perfect tenses

- * Present perfect = present of HAVE + past participle clues : recently, so far, up to now, over the past year
- Pluperfect = HAD + past participle clues: by that time, before then

