

Ex. : He arrived in the morning.
Il arriva le matin.

Il y a expressing time.

When *il y a* expresses time fully past, the English use the preterit (*passé défini*) with the adverb *ago*, which must be placed after the noun expressing time.

Ex. : I saw him two years ago.

Il y a deux ans que je l'ai vu.

It is easy to see by this example that the English language makes an inversion just as if we said in French

Je l'ai vu il y a deux ans.

If the time is not fully past we use the perfect tense (*passé indéfini*) with the adverb *now* without translating *il y a*.

Il y a deux ans que nous travaillons ici.

We have now been two years working here.

French gallicisms

J'ai mal à la tête,
 I have the headache.

J'ai mal aux dents.
 I have the toothache.

J'ai mal aux yeux.
 I have sore eyes.

J'ai mal aux oreilles,
 I have sore ears.