

Grammar for Higher Level Students

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Literacy Volunteers Charlottesville/Albemarle

Tutor Retreat

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Agenda

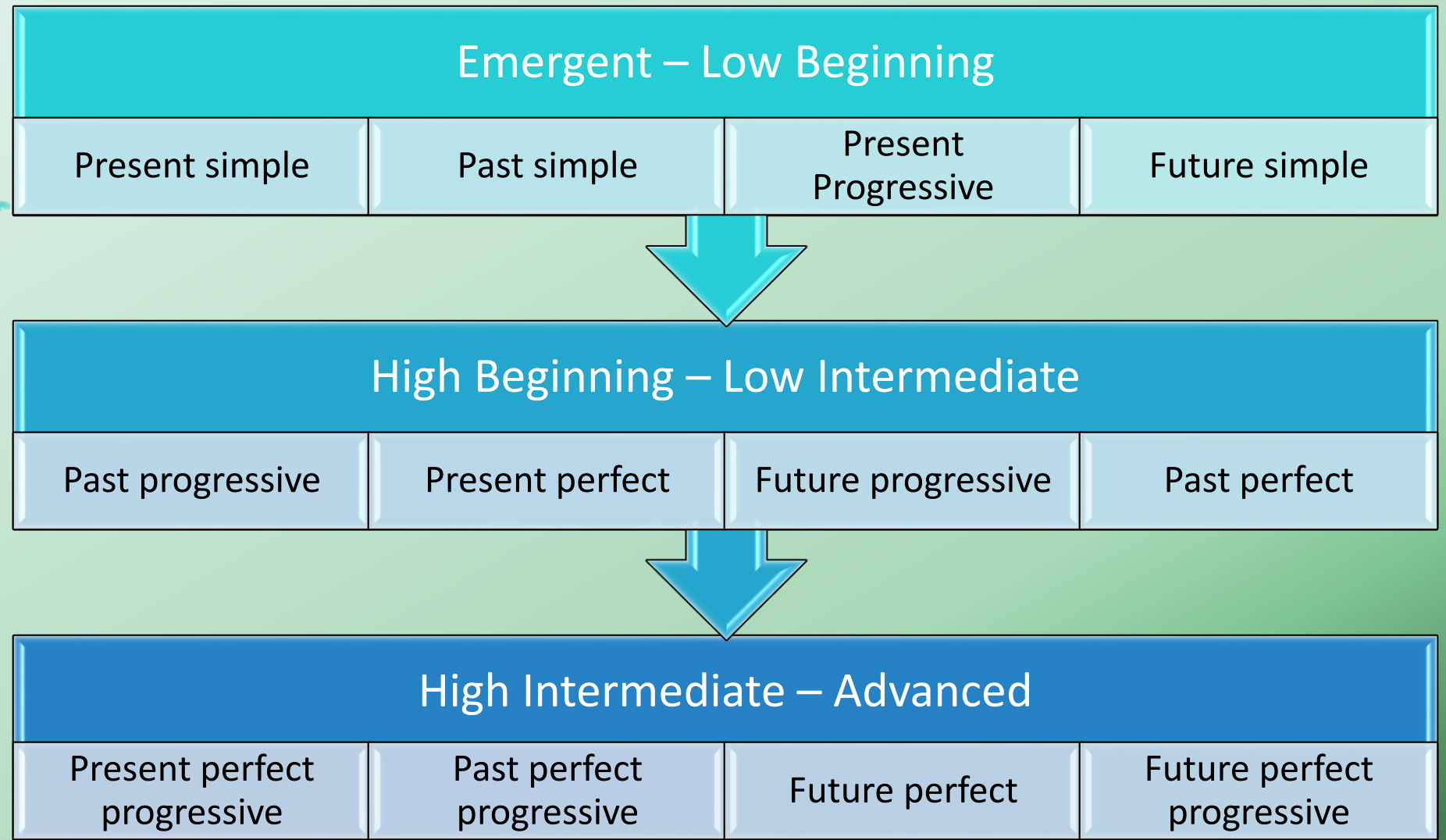
- Complex verb tenses
- Transitional phrases
- Complexity in sentence structure
- Conditional sentences



Complex Verb Tenses



Verb tenses





Intermediate verbs

Verbs on a timeline

The Past

Now

The Future



Past progressive – Usage

- ▶ A continuing action or state that was happening at some point in the past
- ▶ Something that was happening continuously in the past when another action interrupted it
- ▶ It can also refer to a habitual action in the past

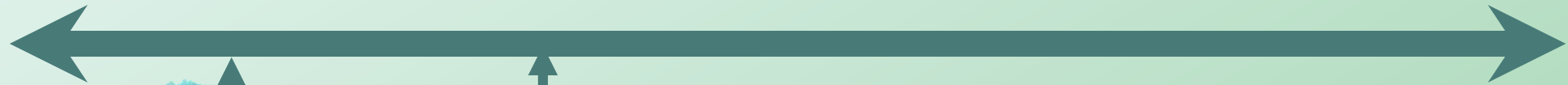


Verbs on a timeline

The Past

Now

The Future



Past progressive – Examples

- *We were relaxing on the beach.*
- *She was driving home when she had a flat.*
- *During summer vacation, they were usually swimming or riding their bikes.*

Verbs on a timeline

The Past

Now

The Future



Present perfect – Usage

- ▶ An action or state that either occurred at an indefinite time in the past (e.g., we have talked before)
- ▶ An action that began in the past and continued to the present time (e.g., he has grown impatient over the last hour)



Verbs on a timeline

The Past

Now

The Future



Present perfect – Examples

- ▶ *We have talked before.*
- ▶ *He has grown impatient over the last hour.*

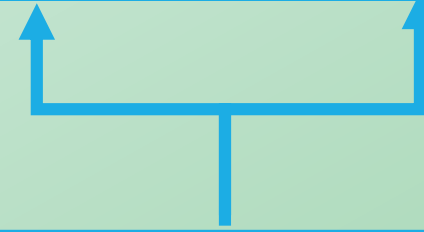
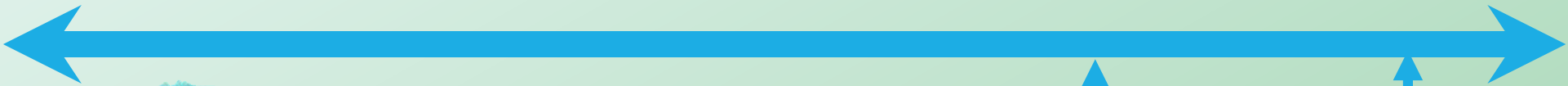


Verbs on a timeline

The Past

Now

The Future



Future Progressive – Usage

- Indicates that something will occur in the future and continue for an expected length of time
- Predicting or guessing about events in the future
- In question form, polite inquiry about future events



Verbs on a timeline

The Past

Now

The Future



Future Progressive – Examples

- *He'll be having dinner with Samantha at 6:00.*
- *I guess you'll be relaxing on the beach a lot during your trip to Hawaii.*
- *Will you be bringing your new girlfriend to the family dinner on Sunday?*



Verbs on a timeline

The Past

Now

The Future



Past perfect – Usage

- An event that happened prior to another event.
- A condition and a result

Verbs on a timeline

The Past

Now

The Future



Past perfect – Examples

- *The train had just left when she arrived at the station.*
- *If my alarm had gone off, I wouldn't have been late.*





Advanced Verbs

Verbs on a timeline

The Past

Now

The Future



Present Perfect Progressive – Usage

- ▶ An action that started in the past and continues in the present
- ▶ An action that has just finished but we are interested in the results



Verbs on a timeline

The Past

Now

The Future



Present Perfect Progressive – Examples

- *I've been working on this project all morning.*
- *It's been raining.*

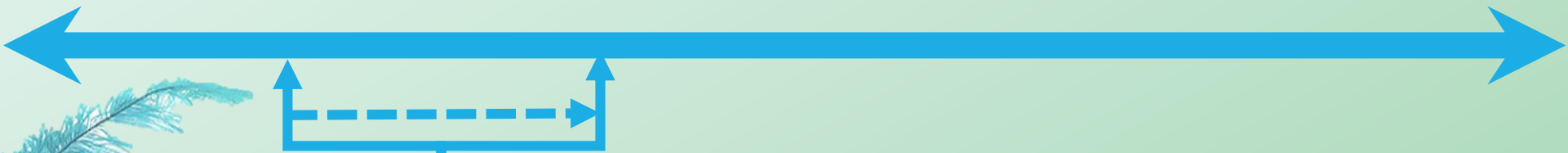


Verbs on a timeline

The Past

Now

The Future



Past Perfect Progressive – Usage

- ▶ Actions taking place before a certain time in the past
- ▶ Interest in the process, duration, or course of action



Verbs on a timeline

The Past

Now

The Future



Past Perfect Progressive – Examples

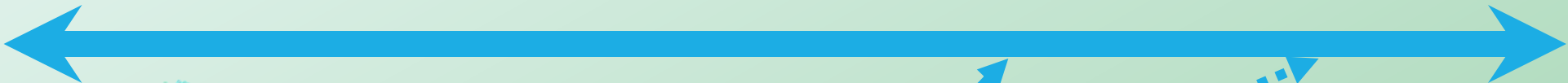
- *I had been waiting all day.*
- *She had been leading the team in points-scoring before her injury ended the season.*
- *He had not been talking when the teacher demanded silence from the class.*

Verbs on a timeline

The Past

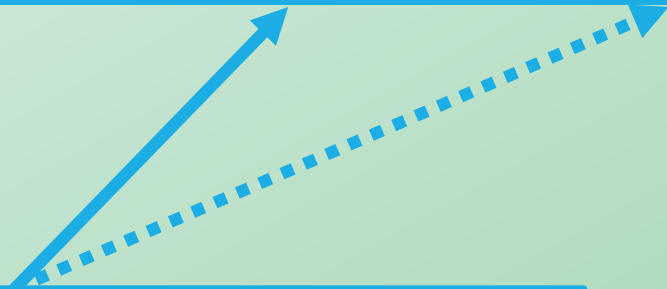
Now

The Future



Future Perfect– Usage

- A completed action in the future
- Often connected to another event in the future

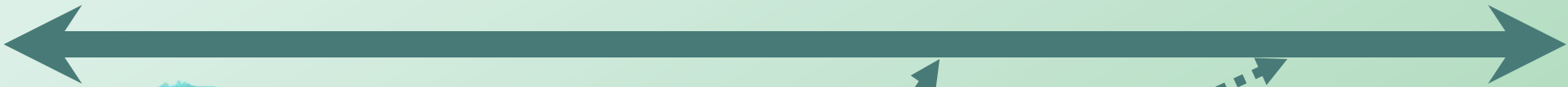


Verbs on a timeline

The Past

Now

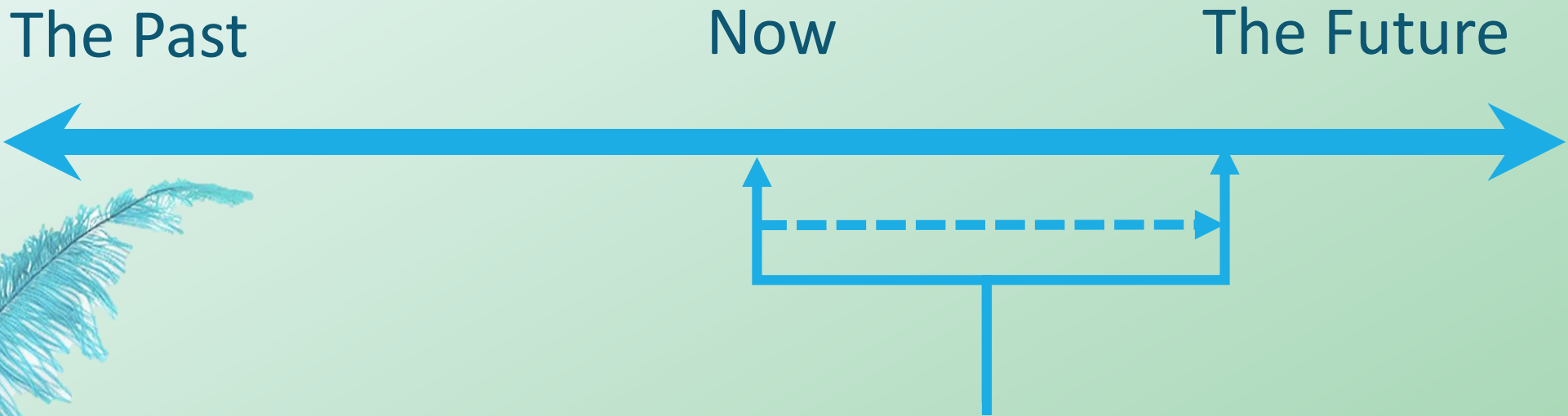
The Future



Future Perfect – Examples

- ▶ *The game will have ended by the time you get here.*
- ▶ *We will not have finished the project before it is due.*
- ▶ *Will you have eaten breakfast before the meeting starts?*

Verbs on a timeline



Future Perfect Progressive – Usage

- ▶ Actions or events that are currently unfinished, but will be finished at some point in the future
- ▶ The time expression is almost always used

Verbs on a timeline

The Past

Now

The Future



Future Perfect Progressive – Examples

- *In June, I will have been living in Charlottesville for four years.*
- *She will not be finishing her Master's degree until 2020.*
- *When I arrive at 6:00pm, will you have been practicing long?*





Transitional phrases

Transitional phrases

- Adding information
- Comparing & contrasting
- Cause & Effect
- Emphasizing
- Sequence & Time
- Summarizing & concluding



Complexity in Sentence Structure



One independent
clause:

One subject & one
verb

Simple
Sentences

Provide basic
information, usually
with little elaboration

She went to the store.



Two (or more)
independent clauses

Linked by a
coordinating
conjunction

Compound
sentences

*and, or, but, yet, so, for,
nor*

*She went to the store,
and she bought some
bread.*



One independent
clause and one
subordinate clause

Linked by a
subordinating
conjunction

Complex Sentences

*if, when, while,
because, since, etc.*

*She went to the store
because she needed
bread.*



Conditional Sentences



Conditional sentences




An “if” clause, and
its result clause

Verbs get tricky in
conditionals

Keep in mind they
are almost never
the same verb in
the two clauses

There are 5
variations on
conditionals

Zero conditional



Deal with
general truths or
scientific facts

Both verbs are
in the present
tense.

*If ice gets hot, it
melts.*

Also used for
instructions

*Ask Sarah if you
don't know what
to do.*

*Call Bill to see if
he can help.*

First conditional (open conditional)

A real situation in
the future

Result clause: *will*
+ infinitive;
Condition clause:
present simple

*If you drop that
glass, it will break.*



Second conditional (half-open conditional)

An unreal
(hypothetical)
situation in the
present

Result clause:
would + infinitive;
Condition clause:
past simple

*We would stay
home if it snowed.*

*I would buy a
house if I won the
lottery.*



Third conditional (closed conditional)

An unreal situation in the past with results in the past

Result clause: *would* + past perfect or past perfect progressive;
Conditional clause: past perfect

We would have stayed home if it had snowed.



Mixed conditional

Variations on the previous three:

Hypothetical past event with current theoretical results

Result clause:
would + present simple; Conditional clause: past perfect

If I had learned how to cook as a child, I would be a chef today.

