Grammar for Higher Level Students

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Tutor Retreat
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Agenda

• Complex verb tenses
• Transitional phrases
• Complexity in sentence structure
• Conditional sentences
Complex Verb Tenses
### Verb tenses

#### Emergent – Low Beginning
- Present simple
- Past simple
- Present Progressive
- Future simple

#### High Beginning – Low Intermediate
- Past progressive
- Present perfect
- Future progressive
- Past perfect

#### High Intermediate – Advanced
- Present perfect progressive
- Past perfect progressive
- Future perfect
- Future perfect progressive
Intermediate verbs
Verbs on a timeline

The Past

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

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

The Future

Now

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

The Past  Now  The Future

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

Provide basic information, usually with little elaboration

Simple Sentences

She went to the store.
Two (or more) independent clauses

Linked by a coordinating conjunction

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

Compound sentences

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

We would stay home if it snowed.

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

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:

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

Hypothetical past event with current theoretical results

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