Grammar for Lower Level Students

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Literacy Volunteers Charlottesville/Albemarle
Tutor Retreat
July 28, 2018
Agenda

- Verb tense
- Use of articles
- Word order
Foundation level verb tenses

- English verbs are hard
- Set priorities
- You do not need to cover them all
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
Foundation verbs
Emergent Literacy – Low Beginning
Verbs on a timeline

Present Simple – Usage
- A short, single action in the present
- A habit (something you do regularly)
- Something that is permanent or takes a long time
Verbs on a timeline

The Past       Now       The Future

Present Simple – Examples
- I feel great!
- She drives to work every day.
- They live in Virginia.
Verbs on a timeline

The Past

Now

The Future

Past Simple – Usage
- A short, single action in the past
- A completed action
- A habit from the past (something you did regularly, but don’t any more)
- An indefinite point in time in the past
Verbs on a timeline

The Past

Now

The Future

Past Simple – Examples
- I went to the store.
- He read that book.
- She rode her bike every day when she was a child.
- People lived in caves a long time ago.
Verbs on a timeline

The Past • Present progressive – Usage

- An action that is ongoing at this moment
- An action that is going on during this period; a trend
- An event that is happening in the future that is already planned or prepared
- A temporary event or situation
- To describe or emphasize a series of repeated actions (usually with “always” or “constantly”)

Now

The Future
Present progressive – Examples
- We’re talking about verbs.
- People are becoming more politically active.
- She’s going away next weekend.
- It’s raining.
- My little sister is always bothering me!
Verbs on a timeline

The Past  Now  The Future

Future Simple – Usage
- Predict a future event
- Express willingness
- To give orders
- In question form, to give an invitation
Verbs on a timeline

The Past  Now  The Future

Future Simple – Examples
- *It will rain* tomorrow.
- *He’ll carry the bags* for you.
- *You will do* exactly as I say!
- *Will you marry* me?
Intermediate verbs
High Beginning – Low Intermediate
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
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
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.
Use of articles

- Singular countable nouns need something
  - Article
  - Possessive
  - Demonstrative
- Definite Articles
- Indefinite Articles
Definite Articles

- Something already mentioned
- When there’s only one
- When you are defining the noun
- When it’s unique
- Before a superlative, an ordinal number, or with the word “only”
- When you are referring to a whole group
- Decades

- A man was arrested for jaywalking. The guy felt it was very unfair.
- I live in the blue house across from the post office.
- He is the man who took the picture.
- The sun is shining today.
- The first one is always the best.
- The team arrived for the game.
- The 80s had the best music.
Definite Articles

- Proper names of geographic areas, rivers, mountain ranges, groups of islands, canals, and oceans
- With countries that have plural names or include the words: “republic”, “kingdom”, or “states” in their names
- Newspapers
- Famous buildings, works of art, museums, or monuments
- With the names of families

- The Nile is the longest river in the world.
- The Slovak Republic is in Europe.
- The Washington Post emails me a dozen times a day.
- The Mona Lisa is in the Louvre.
- The Smiths live across the street from me.
Do not use “the” with...

- Country names (with exceptions)
- Languages
- Meals
- People’s names
- Titles when used with people’s names
- Professions
- Stores
- Uncountable nouns
- Individual mountains, lakes, or islands
- Towns, streets, stations, or airports
Indefinite articles

- When something is mentioned for the first time
- Names of jobs
- Nationalities and religions in the singular
- Days of the week when not referring to any particular day
- An example of something
- With singular nouns after the words “what” or “such”
- When referring to only one of something (and replacing “one”)

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Word Order

- The full sentence
- Adverbs
- Adjectives
Word order

Subject → Verb → Indirect Object → Direct Object → Place → Time
Beginning of the sentence
- Unfortunately, not everyone enjoyed the movie.
Word order for Adverbs

- Main verb (no auxiliary) – just before the verb
  - *I really enjoyed the film.*
Word order for Adverbs

- Main verb with one auxiliary – between the two
  - I did not enjoy the film.
Main verb with more than one auxiliary – in the 2\textsuperscript{nd} position

I had really been enjoying the film until we got to the absurd ending.
Word Order for Adverbs

- End of sentence
  - Jill goes to the movies every afternoon.
Word Order for Adverbs

- More than one adverbial phrases at the end
  - Manner → place → time
  - *Peter sang the song enthusiastically in the shower in the morning.*
# Word Order for Adverbs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manner</td>
<td>Usually end, sometimes mid</td>
<td>She ate her lunch <strong>quickly</strong>. She <strong>quickly</strong> at her lunch.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place</td>
<td>Usually end, sometimes beginning</td>
<td>Can you come <strong>here</strong>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Usually end, sometimes beginning</td>
<td>We will meet <strong>tomorrow</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>At the end</td>
<td>I’m not staying <strong>long</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequency</td>
<td>Usually mid</td>
<td>I <strong>usually</strong> get to work early.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degree</td>
<td>Really, very, quite go in the mid, a lot, a bit go at the end</td>
<td>I <strong>really</strong> like my new shoes. I like my new shoes <strong>a lot</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viewpoint &amp; evaluation</td>
<td>Usually outside the clause</td>
<td><strong>Personally</strong>, I think this is a lot of work.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Word order for adjectives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opinion</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Shape</th>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Pattern</th>
<th>Origin</th>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Noun</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ugly</td>
<td>small</td>
<td>thin</td>
<td>dirty</td>
<td>old</td>
<td>red</td>
<td>striped</td>
<td>Italian</td>
<td>cotton</td>
<td>sleeping</td>
<td>bag</td>
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</tbody>
</table>