



Grammar for Lower Level Students

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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

The Past

Now

The Future



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

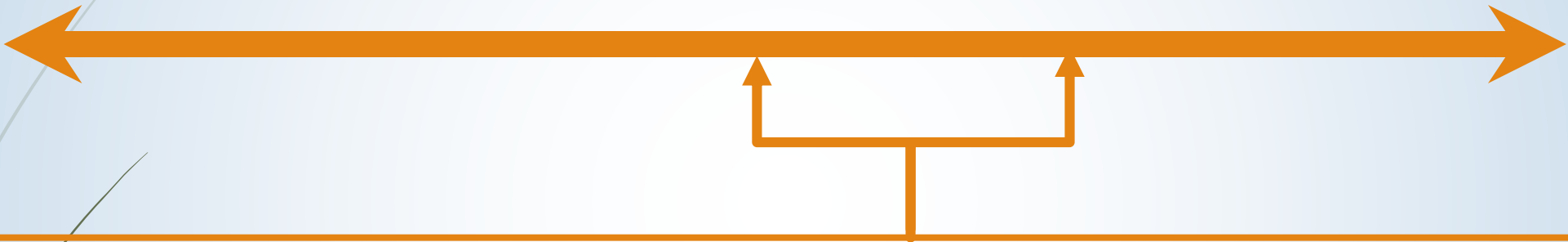
- I went to the store.
- He read that book.
- She rode her bike every day when she was a child.
- People lived in caves a long time ago.

Verbs on a timeline

The Past

Now

The Future



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”)

Verbs on a timeline

The Past

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

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

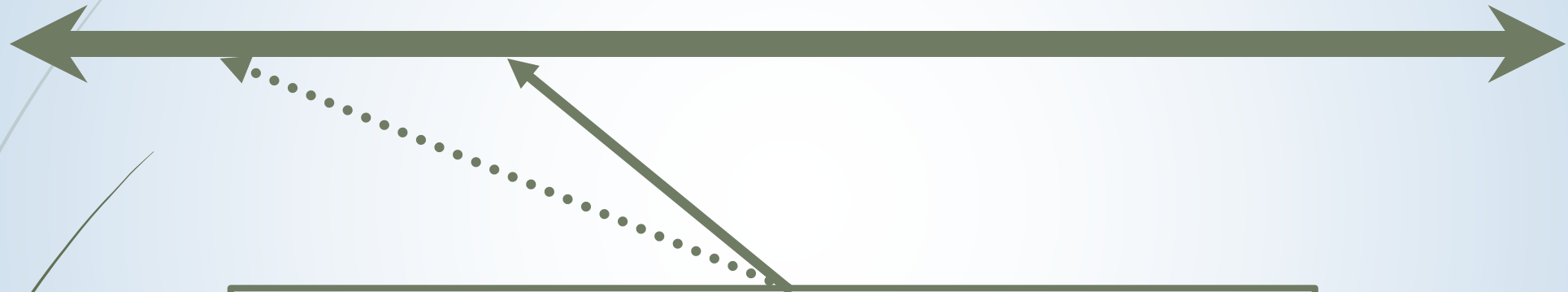
- ▶ An event that happened prior to another event.
- ▶ A condition and a result

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.



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”)

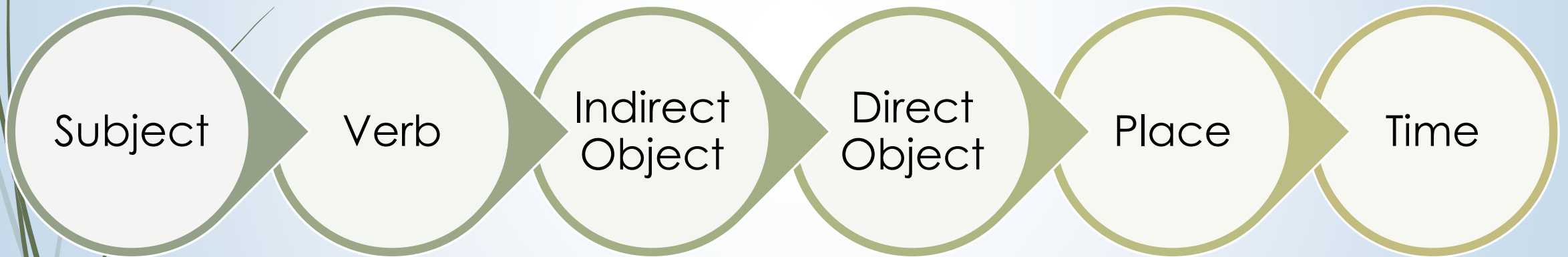


Word Order

- The full sentence
 - Adverbs
 - Adjectives
- 



Word order





Word Order for Adverbs

- ▶ 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.*



Word order for Adverbs

- ▶ Main verb with more than one auxiliary – in the 2nd 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

| Type | Position | |
|------------------------|---|---|
| Manner | Usually end, sometimes mid | <i>She ate her lunch quickly. She quickly at her lunch.</i> |
| Place | Usually end, sometimes beginning | <i>Can you come here?</i> |
| Time | Usually end, sometimes beginning | <i>We will meet tomorrow.</i> |
| Duration | At the end | <i>I'm not staying long.</i> |
| Frequency | Usually mid | <i>I usually get to work early.</i> |
| Degree | <i>Really, very, quite</i> go in the mid, <i>a lot, a bit</i> go at the end | <i>I really like my new shoes. I like my new shoes a lot.</i> |
| Viewpoint & evaluation | <i>Usually outside the clause</i> | <i>Personally, I think this is a lot of work.</i> |

Word order for adjectives

| Opinion | Size | Shape | Condition | Age | Color | Pattern | Origin | Material | Purpose | Noun |
|---------|-------|-------|-----------|-----|-------|---------|---------|----------|----------|------|
| Ugly | small | thin | dirty | old | red | striped | Italian | cotton | sleeping | bag |