Grammar for Higher Level Students

Steven Reid

Literacy Volunteers Charlottesville/Albemarle

Tutor Retreat

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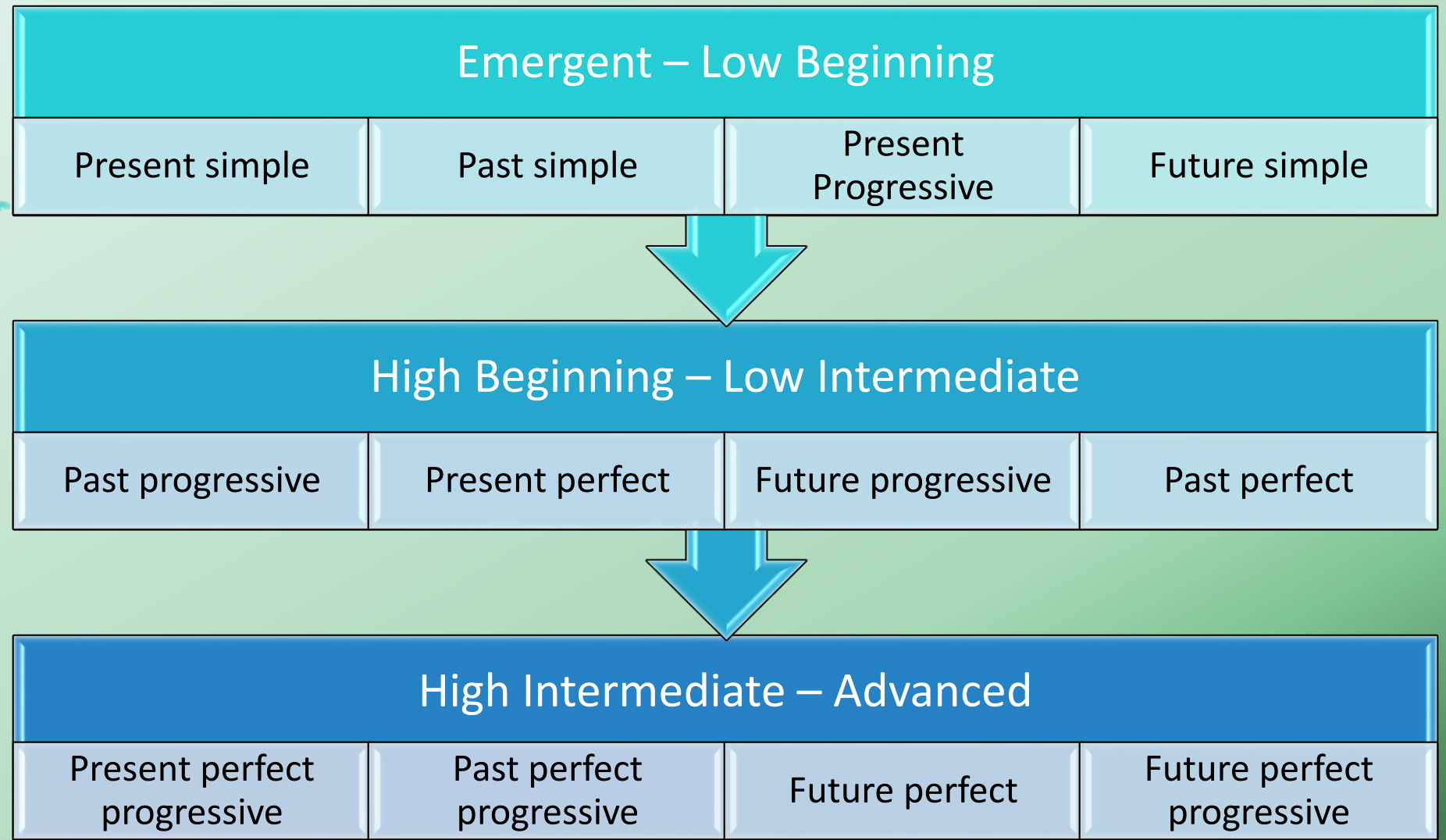# Agenda

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

Complex Verb Tenses

Verb tenses

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   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
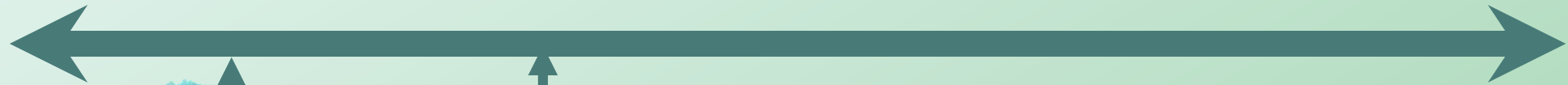- It can also refer to a habitual action in the past

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 <u>have talked</u> before.*
- *He <u>has grown</u> impatient over the last hour.*
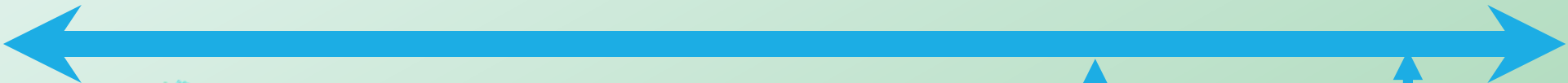
Verbs on a timeline

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
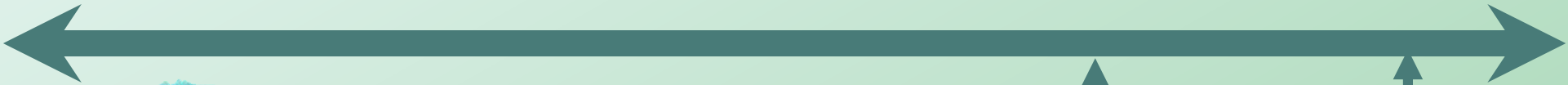- In question form, polite inquiry about future events

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 – Examples
- *The train <u>had</u> just <u>left</u> when she arrived at the station.*
- *If my alarm <u>had gone</u> 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
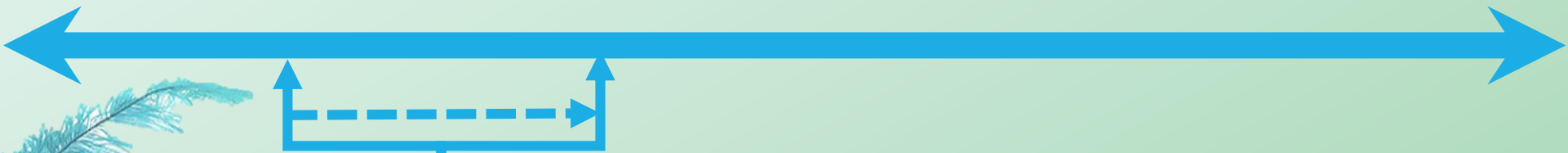- *I've been working on this project all morning.*
- *It's been raining.*

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

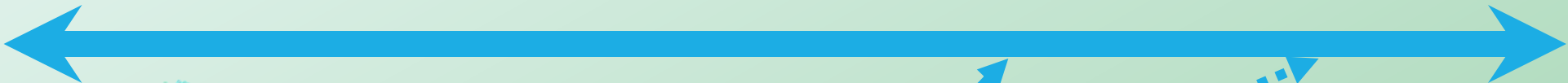Past Perfect Progressive – Examples
- *I had been waiting all day.*
- *She had been leading the team in points-scoring before her injury ended the season.*
- *He had not been talking when the teacher demanded silence from the class.*
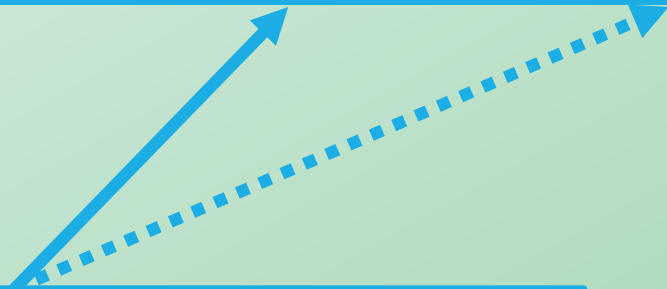
Verbs on a timeline

The Past   Now   The Future

Future Perfect– Usage
- A completed action in the future
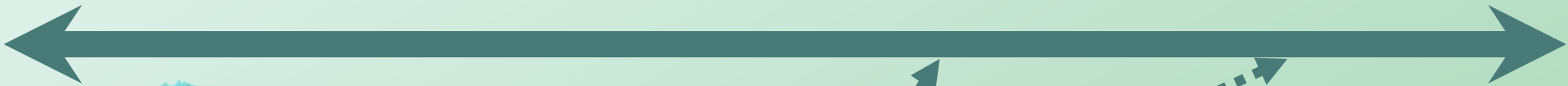- Often connected to another event in the future

Verbs on a timeline

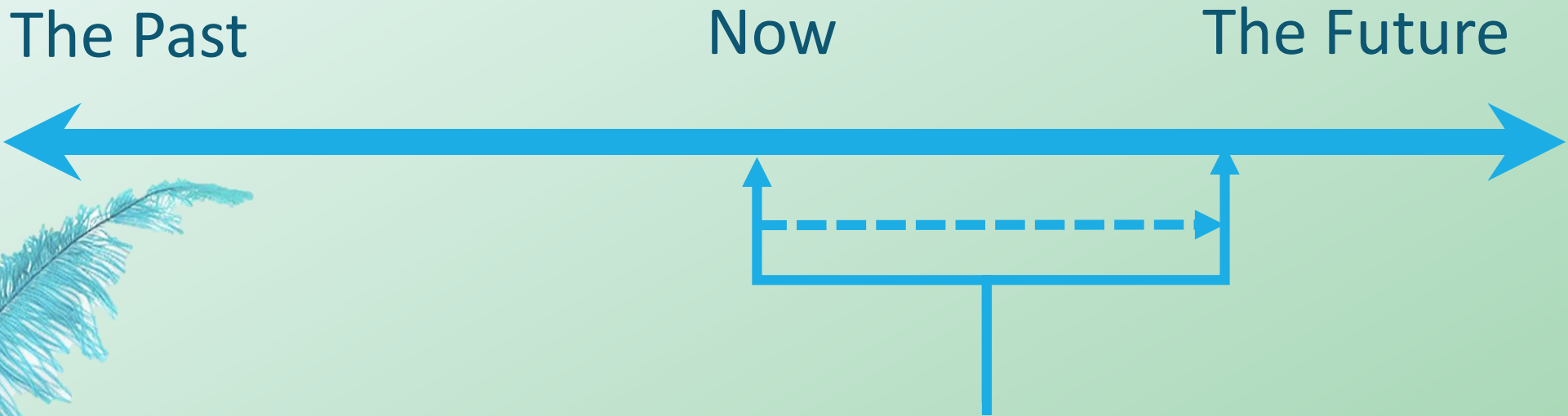The Past   Now   The Future

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 stars?*

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

Compound sentences

Two (or more) independent clauses

Linked by a coordinating conjunction

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.