

# Grammar for Lower Level Students

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Tutor Retreat

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# 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

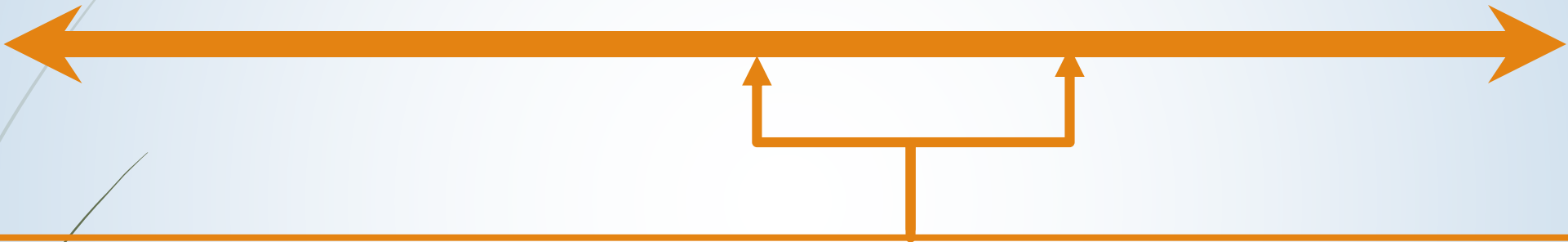
- I went to the store.
- He read that book.
- She rode her bike every day when she was a child.
- People lived in caves a long time ago.

# 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

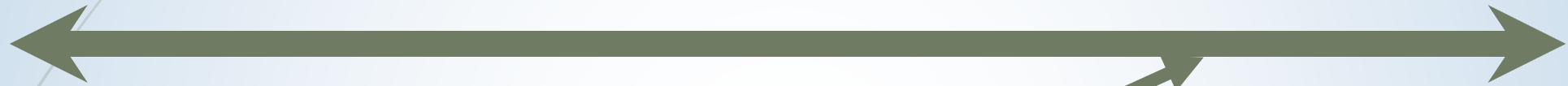
- Predict a future event
- Express willingness
- To give orders
- In question form, to give an invitation

# 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

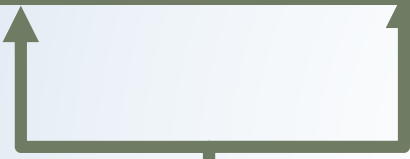
- ▶ A continuing action or state that was happening at some point in the past
- ▶ Something that was happening continuously in the past when another action interrupted it
- ▶ It can also refer to a habitual action in the past

# 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

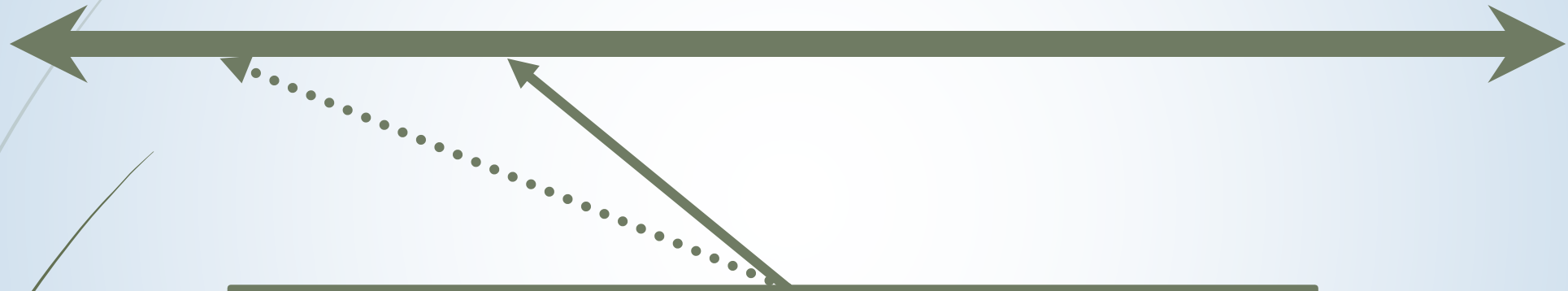
- ▶ An event that happened prior to another event.
- ▶ A condition and a result

# 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”)

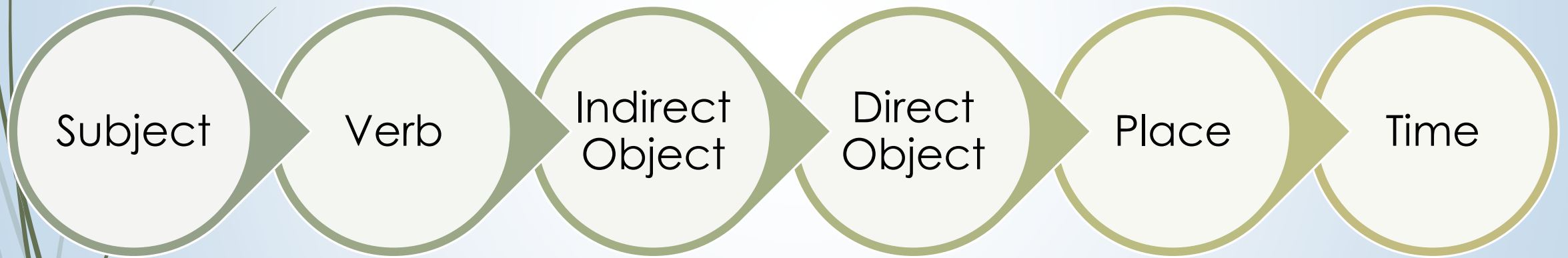


# Word Order

- 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 <b>quickly</b>. She <b>quickly</b> at her lunch.</i>
Place	Usually end, sometimes beginning	<i>Can you come <b>here</b>?</i>
Time	Usually end, sometimes beginning	<i>We will meet <b>tomorrow</b>.</i>
Duration	At the end	<i>I'm not staying <b>long</b>.</i>
Frequency	Usually mid	<i>I <b>usually</b> 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 <b>really</b> like my new shoes. I like my new shoes <b>a lot</b>.</i>
Viewpoint & evaluation	<i>Usually outside the clause</i>	<i><b>Personally</b>, 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