

Past Perfect Continuous

I was tired because I had been doing my exams.	Provide background information.
I had been working for hours without a break.	When a period of time is specified.
When he came I had been baking.	To link one event with another (showing the order)
I had been meaning to visit her but didn't have time.	

Clues in sentences: linked events with a need to show time order

Diary Future (Present Continuous)

I am picking her up at 6 pm.	Pre-arranged plans
I can't come as I am going on holiday.	Explain why unable to do something

Clues in sentences: specific times, giving reasons, declining invitations

Going To Future

I am going to buy a new cat tomorrow.	Indicate a plan or intention
It is going to rain tomorrow	Predict future events
If he comes in I am going to leave	Express a condition

Clues in sentences: similar to will/shall future but used more often in conversation

Will/Shall Future

I will help clean my room now.	Deciding to do something
It will rain tomorrow.	Prediction
I will lose weight.	Expressing determination
I will tell your teacher.	Expressing commitment
That will be the postman.	Logical deduction
He will be late. (He always is)	Persistence (especially habit)

Clues in sentences: used to show determination

Future Continuous

This time tomorrow he will be taking his exam.	Action expected to cross a certain time
We will be arriving tomorrow.	Reassuring/asserting arrangements
I shall be making a complaint.	Threatening or promising future action
I expect you will be feeling hungry.	Logical deduction

Clues in sentences: Expressing future situations with a specific time

Future Perfect

I will have left England by next week.	With <i>by</i> at a point in the future
He will have arrived home by now.	Logical deduction

Clues in sentences: by

Future Perfect Continuous

This time tomorrow I will have been sitting on the plane for 10 hours.	Predicted duration of an event
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Clues in sentences: a time in the future with a continuous action

Passive Tenses

English is spoken in many countries.	Present simple passive
The cake was baked by Mary.	Past simple passive
The car is being fixed.	Present continuous passive
The floor was being washed so it was slippery.	Past continuous passive
We have been invited to the party.	Present perfect passive
The project had been finished.	Past perfect passive
The thief will have been arrested by now.	Future perfect passive

Conditional Tenses

<p>If you boil water, it releases steam. Water releases steam if you boil it.</p>	General condition – scientific rules
<p>If the weather is sunny, I will wear a sun hat. I will wear a sun hat if the weather is sunny.</p>	First condition – Prediction for highly possible event
<p>If I won a million dollars, I would buy a new car. I would buy a new car if I won a million dollars.</p>	Second condition – Prediction for unlikely event.
<p>If I had taken my umbrella I would not be all wet now. I would not be all wet now, if I had taken my umbrella.</p>	Third condition – Impossible as the event has already been completed.

Exercise 8

Complete the blanks with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

Too Much TV?

Who _____ (not/watch) TV nowadays? It is an inescapable part of modern culture and children _____ (expose) to it from a young age.

Having said that, many arguments _____ (go) on currently about whether children watch too much and whether the content is appropriate.

Certainly educational programs, such as Animal Planet documentaries, teach important skills such as knowledge, spelling and reading. These kinds of programs can help children learn more about social interaction and behaviour. Take Peter as an example. When he _____ (not/can/find) information for a project, he _____ (come) across a documentary and got all the information he needed.

However there are other children's shows, such as Teletubbies or Transformers that people say gradually _____ (poisoning) the minds of young children and so parents _____ (recommend).

Several studies _____ (suggest) that television viewing by children younger than 3 years old can damage their reading comprehension and short-term memory. These studies also _____ (reveal) that children are watching television more than any other activity except _____ (sleep). As a result the obesity problem _____ (grow) and _____ (continue) to do so if children spend all their time _____ (sit) in front of a screen.

Children's free time, especially during the early formative years, should _____ (spend) on activities such as playing, reading, exploring nature, learning about music or participating in sports. So, parents must schedule TV times and children's choices for their benefit.

Exercise 8 - answers

Complete the blanks with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

Too Much TV?

Who **doesn't/does not watch** (not/watch) TV nowadays? It is an inescapable part of modern culture and children **are exposed/are being exposed** (expose) to it from a young age.

Having said that, many arguments **are going** (go) on currently about whether children watch too much and whether the content is appropriate.

Certainly educational programs, such as Animal Planet documentaries, teach important skills such as knowledge, spelling and reading. These kinds of programs can help children learn more about social interaction and behaviour. Take Peter as an example. When he **could not find** (not/can find) information for a project, he **came** (come) across a documentary and got all the information he needed.

However there are other children's shows, such as Teletubbies or Transformers that people say gradually **are/have been poisoning** (poison) the minds of young children and so parental **is recommended** (recommended).

Several studies done recently **suggest/have suggested** (suggest) that television viewing by children younger than 3 years old can damage their reading comprehension and short-term memory. These studies also **reveal** (reveal) that children are watching television more than any other activity except **sleeping** (sleep). As a result the obesity problem **is growing** (grow) and **will continue** (continue) to do so if children spend all their time **sitting** (sit) in front of a screen.

Children's free time, especially during the early formative years, should **be spent** (spend) on activities such as playing, reading, exploring nature, learning about music or participating in sports. So, parents must schedule TV times and children's choices for their benefit.