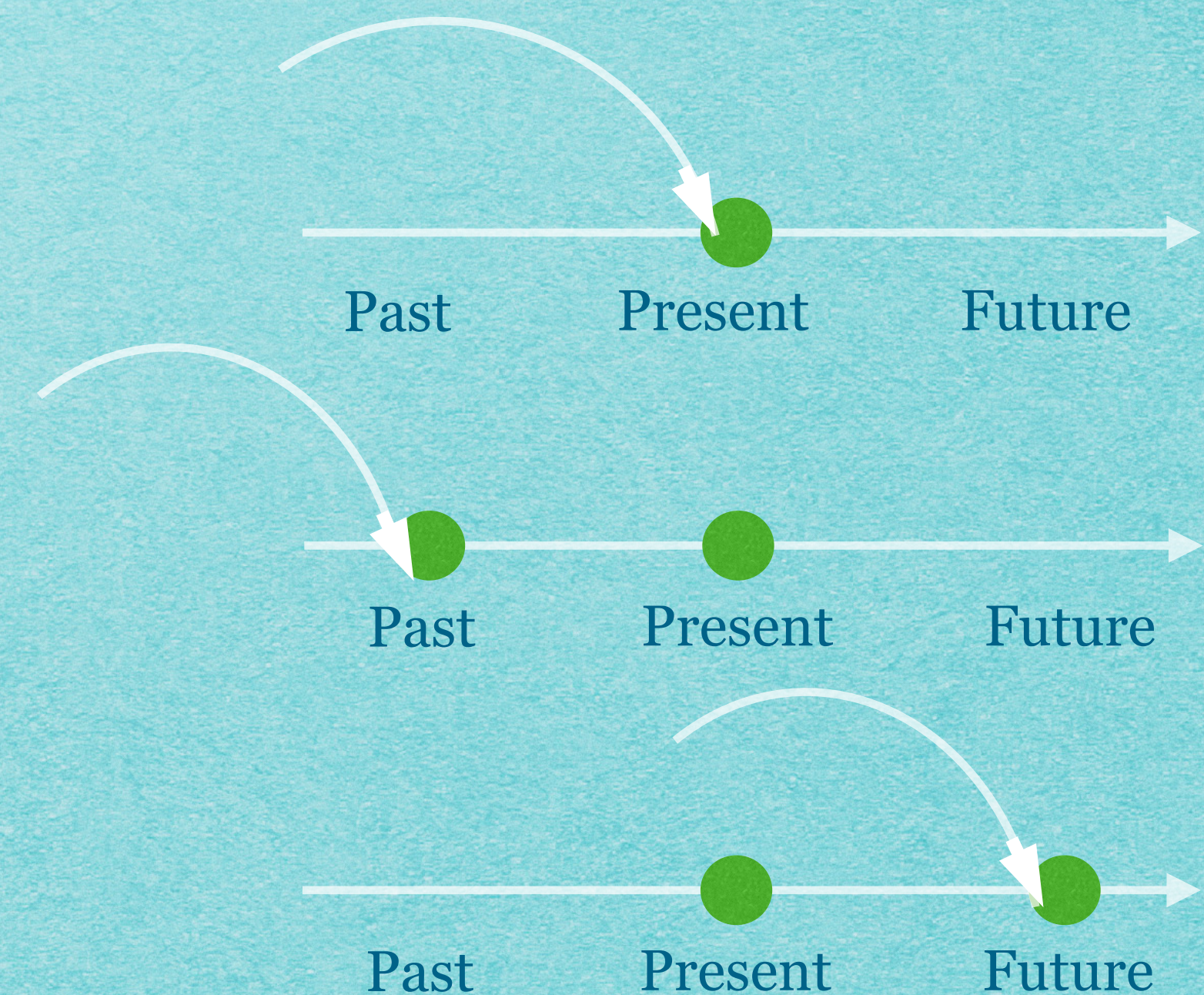


*The Perfect  
Aspect*



# The Perfect Aspect

- ▶ The **perfect aspect** is **not limited to a single tense**, like the present perfect or past perfect or present perfect continuous.
- ▶ Instead, it is a concept - a way of looking at an action in terms of **completion or relation to another time**.



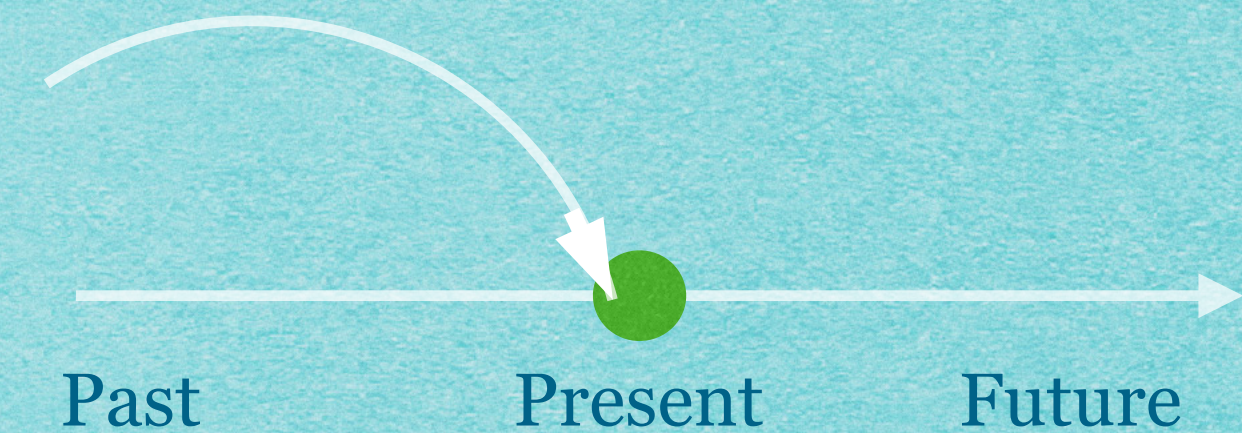
# 1. Present Perfect

- ▶ Shows completed actions with relevance to now.
- ▶ The action has already happened or started in the past, but its result is significant now.
- ▶ The exact date isn't the focus — the connection to the present is.

*E.g. I've been here since June.*

*E.g. She has visited Paris three times.*

*E.g. They have already finished their homework.*



## 2. Present Perfect Continuous

- ▶ **Use the present perfect continuous when you want to focus on how long something has been happening.**
- ▶ **The action began in the past, continues up to now, and the length of time is important.**

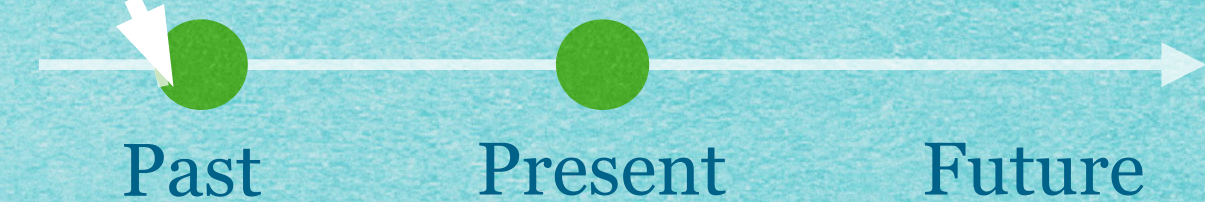
*E.g. She's been walking for hours.*

*E.g. I've been talking on the phone all morning.*

*E.g. They've been working on the project since Monday.*

# 3. Past Perfect

- ▶ **The past perfect looks back from a time in the past to a time before that.**
- ▶ **First, one action happened, then another later in the past, and the past perfect helps show the correct order.**



*E.g. I had to go back because I'd forgotten my passport.*

*E.g. She had already left when I arrived.*

*E.g. They had finished cleaning before the guests arrived.*

# 4. Past Perfect Continuous

- ▶ **The past perfect continuous focuses on the *duration* of an action before a moment in the past.**
- ▶ **The emphasis is on how long the action continued before that past point.**

*E.g. She'd been doing the same job for fifteen years before she was promoted.*

*E.g. I had been waiting for an hour when the train finally arrived.*

*E.g. They had been playing football all afternoon before it started raining.*

# 5. Future Perfect

- ▶ Shows an action that will be completed before a certain future point.

*E.g. By next week, we will have finished the project.*

*E.g. By the end of the year, she will have written five books.*

*E.g. He will have graduated before moving abroad.*



# 6. Future Perfect Continuous

- ▶ **Use the future perfect continuous to focus on how long an action will have lasted by a certain future time.**
- ▶ **The focus is the length of time, not just completion.**

*E.g. In 2035, I'll have been living here for ten years.*

*E.g. By June, she'll have been teaching at the school for 5 years.*

*E.g. Next year, they'll have been traveling around Europe for six months.*

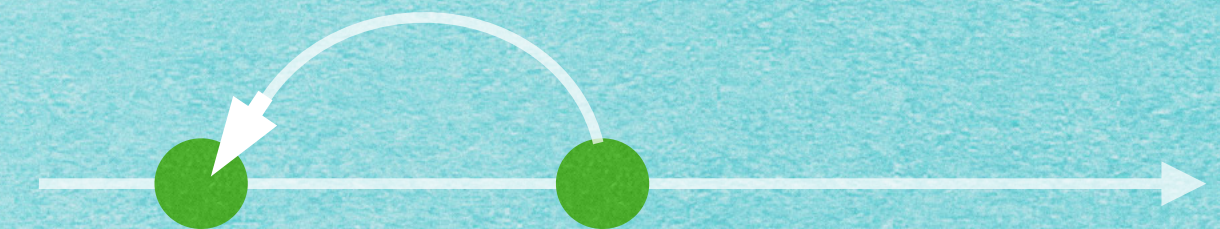
# 7. Perfect Infinitive

- ▶ The perfect infinitive uses *(to) have + past participle* and follows other verbs.
- ▶ It looks back to an earlier time from the speaker's point of view.

*E.g. He seems **to have forgotten** us.*

*E.g. She appears **to have misunderstood** the instructions.*

*E.g. I haven't received your letter. It may **have got** lost in the post.*



# 7. Perfect Infinitive

- ▶ **The perfect infinitive can be used with different time periods.**
- ▶ **In each case, the action happened before another reference point.**

*E.g. It's great to have finished my exams.*

*E.g. He said he was sorry to have missed your party.*

*E.g. We hope to have done the work by 5:00.*

# Summing Up: The Perfect Aspect

▶ The perfect aspect shows that one action happens before another reference point — whether that point is in the present, the past, or the future.

▶ We use:

- Present perfect to connect the past to now.
- Past perfect to show which action happened first in the past.
- Future perfect to look back from a future moment.
- Continuous forms to emphasize duration.
- Perfect infinitives to look back from another verb or viewpoint.

