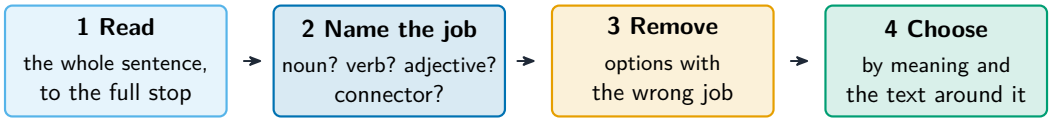
TOEFL Junior · Language Form and Meaning

Original teaching notes and invented examples; not ETS test items.

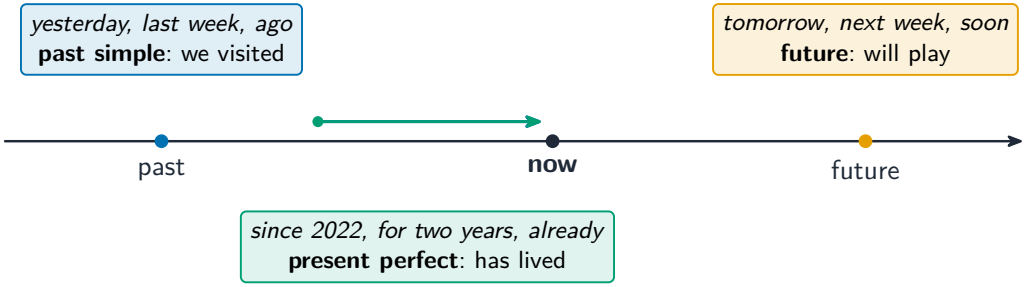
The 30-second routine



about 35 seconds per box ▪ 42 boxes ▪ 25 minutes

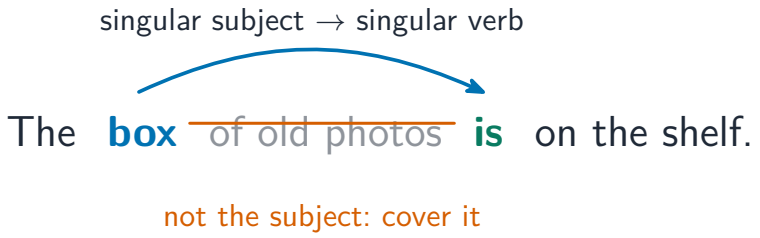
> Job first, meaning second

Time words point to the tense



Find the time word in the sentence, or in the sentence before it

Jump over the middle



> The box of old photos is on the shelf, box … is

Your turn: agreement

Your turn

Everyone in both classes ____ a ticket for the concert.

A. get
B. gets
C. are getting
D. have got

Verb patterns

Pattern	Verbs	Example
to + verb	want, decide, hope, plan	We decided to visit the museum.
-ing	enjoy, finish, avoid, practise	She enjoys building models.
base form	make, let, help + person	The coach made us run again.
after a preposition	interested in, good at, before	Are you interested in joining?

Use the evidence

After a preposition, always -ing.

Word forms by job

1. **Before a noun** an adjective, a careful plan.
2. **After a verb** an adverb, worked carefully.
3. **After the, a or his** a noun, the building of the hall.
4. **Feelings** -ed for the person (interested), -ing for the cause (an interesting talk).

Decision

Friendly, lovely and lonely end in -ly but are adjectives.

Name the link, then choose

Result	Reason	Contrast	Condition	Time
so, therefore, as a result	because, since	but, although, however	if, unless	when, while, after, before
It rained, so we stayed in.	*We stayed in because it rained.*	*It rained, but we went out.*	*Unless it rains, we'll go out.*	*When it stopped, we went out.*

Result, reason, contrast, condition or time?

Passive, conditionals, collocations

Point	Pattern	Example
Passive	be + past participle	The poem was written by a student.
Real future	if + present	If it rains, we will stay inside.
Imagined	if + past	If I had wings, I would fly.
Collocation	fixed partners	make a mistake, do homework, raise money

Use the evidence

Never will in the if part.

Four traps, four checks

The trap	The check
he go, three book	-s on present verbs and plural nouns.
We visited beautiful garden.	A singular countable noun needs a or the.
I study here for two years.	since or for → present perfect, I have studied.

Try it: a thank-you letter

1. **Thank you for ____ the trip** → organising, after the preposition for.
2. **Everyone in our class ____ talked about it** → has, because everyone is singular.
3. **The photos ____ by Mr Lee** → were taken, because the photos receive the action.
4. **Our class ____ 500 yuan** → raised, because the **collocation** is raise money.

Decision

Every answer comes from naming the job first.

Check yourself

- Before meaning, check the job of the box.
- The list of winners is on the wall: the subject is list.
- Since 2022 needs the present perfect.
- If it rains tomorrow: no will in the if part.