

Grammar – Tenses

5 Tenses which Need a Second Clause – Part 1

There are **five tenses** in English which require a second clause: **Past Continuous**, **Past Perfect**, and **Past Perfect Continuous** usually provide background information for a Past Simple clause, e.g.

pa con: I was driving to my parents' home **because** I needed to borrow some tools.
pa perf: I had driven to my parents' home **but** they weren't in.
pa p.c. I had been driving to my parents' home **when** my car suddenly broke down.

The exasperated reply to each statement without a second clause might be: "So, what happened?"

In **Future Perfect** and **Future Perfect Continuous** it is usual to indicate the other time in a second clause:

fu perf: I will have made lunch **by the time** you read this message.
fu p.c. I will have been making lunch for two hours **when** you get here.

Complete the sentences below with the **given tense** and **conjunction** or **relative pronoun** using the indicated **topic**. Then say which **category** the joining word belongs to (below):

A. ADDITION	B. CONDITION	C. CONTRAST	
D. REASON	E. RELATIVE PRONOUNS	F. RESULT	G. TIME

1. Topic: breakfast

Ex. pa con I was making toast, **in spite of** being late for work. [C]

- a) pa con _____ **in spite of** _____
b) pa perf _____ **so** _____
c) pa p.c. _____ **which** _____
d) fu perf _____ **by the time** _____
e) fu p.c. _____ **before** _____

2. Topic: fish

- a) pa con _____ **provided that** _____
b) pa perf _____ **and** _____
c) pa p.c. _____ **whereas** _____
d) fu perf _____ **prior to** _____
e) fu p.c. _____ **until** _____

3. Topic: television

- a) pa con _____ **but** _____
b) pa perf _____ **since** _____
c) pa p.c. _____ **as long as** _____
d) fu perf _____ **when** _____
e) fu p.c. _____ **once** _____

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Answers will vary. Sample answers.

Note that you could transform one sentence into each of the different tenses, as below, or write an original sentence for each answer:

1. Topic: breakfast

- a) pa con I was making toast, **in spite of** being late for work. [C]
- b) pa perf I had made toast for Leah, **so** she would have more time to get ready. [F]
- c) pa p.c. I had been making toast, **which** was a new thing for me. [E]
- d) fu perf I will have made toast **by the time** you get downstairs. [G]
- e) fu p.c. I will have been making toast **before** we have to leave. [G]

2. Topic: fish

- a) pa con We were taking care of the school goldfish, **provided that** it was only for one week. [B]
- b) pa perf We had taken care of the school goldfish, **and** it was a fascinating experience. [A]
- c) pa p.c. We had been taking care of the school goldfish, **whereas** Sue'd had the hamster. [C]
- d) fu perf We'll have taken care of the school goldfish **prior to** going on holiday to Greece. [G]
- e) fu p.c. We'll have been taking care of the school goldfish **until** the new term begins. [G]

3. Topic: television

- a) pa con I was watching television, **but** there was nothing good on. [C]
- b) pa perf I had watched television **since** Claire had gone to work. [D] or [G]
- c) pa p.c. I had been watching television **as long as** my parents let me. [B]
- d) fu perf I will have watched television **when** my cake was baking. [G]
- e) fu p.c. I will have been watching television **once** I finish my homework.¹ [G]

¹ In this sentence the second clause has the first action.