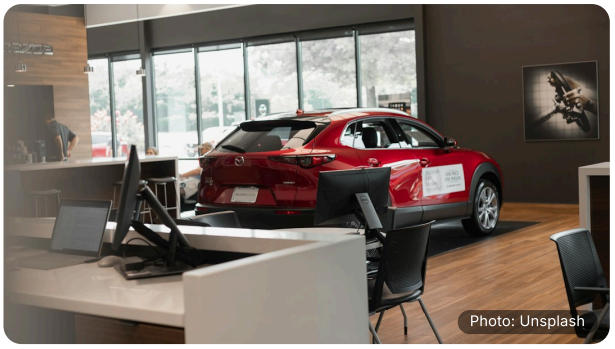
EU sees surge in Chinese hybrids

LEVEL B2


Photo: Unsplash

I. WARM-UP

1. Which car types are growing in your country now?
2. What makes you choose one car brand over another?
3. Should governments guide people's car choices? How?

II. KEY VOCABULARY

tariff
A tax on goods when they enter a country.

quota
A fixed limit on how much of something can be imported.

safeguard
A protective measure used to prevent harm to an industry.

deficit
When a country buys more from abroad than it sells, creating a gap.

commissioner
A senior official in a government or international body.

assessment
A careful study to judge effects or importance.

brand
A product name that identifies a company's goods.

voluntary
Done by choice, not because of a rule or law.

III. READING

Sales of Chinese hybrid cars have surged in the EU over four and a half years, alarming officials in Brussels. After the EU imposed anti-subsidy tariffs on fully electric cars from China in 2024, sales of Chinese-made full hybrids jumped from 659 in 2022 to 160,662 in the first seven months of this year.

Plug-in hybrids rose from 56,706 in 2022 to 217,764 between January and July. Brussels has asked China to voluntarily reduce hybrid exports or face safeguards, likely quotas. Germany's car industry group, the VDA, said it is open to tariffs on Chinese hybrids and urged an assessment by the European Commission.

According to ACEA, hybrids now make up almost 37% of the market, while electric cars are just over 21%. Chinese manufacturers are gaining ground: BYD, Chery and Leapmotor show triple-digit growth. Geely remains the most popular Chinese brand, selling 205,000 cars in the first eight months, while BYD sold 177,000.

The EU's trade commissioner, Maroš Šefčovič, will meet China's Wang Wentao in October amid a €1.18bn-a-day trade deficit, as both sides seek a truce.

Reading text adapted from reporting by **The Guardian***: "Alarm bells sound in Brussels as EU sales...". Original article linked at theenglishwire.com.*

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What EU action in 2024 preceded the jump in hybrid sales?
2. How many Chinese full hybrids were sold in Jan–Jul this year?
3. What market share do hybrids have, according to ACEA?
4. Which Chinese brand is currently the most popular in the EU?
5. What might happen if China does not reduce hybrid exports?

V. DISCUSSION

1. Should the EU add tariffs to imported hybrids? Why or why not?
2. How could European brands compete without new trade barriers?
3. What are the risks and benefits of quotas on car imports?
4. Is a trade truce with China likely soon? Explain.

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Future perfect continuous

Use will have been + verb-ing to show how long an action will be happening up to a future time point. It emphasises duration before that time.

> *"Companies* **will have been selling** *hybrids for months by October."*
> *"EU imports* **will have been rising** *steadily by then."*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

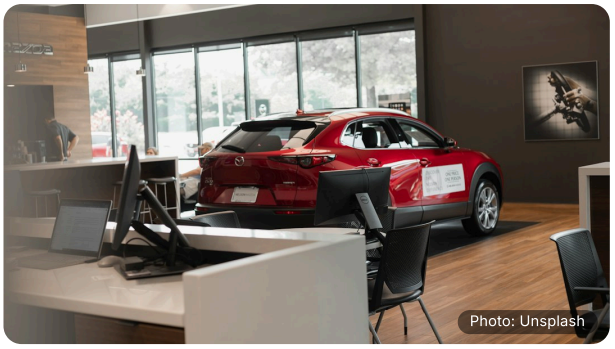
Complete each sentence with the future perfect continuous form (will have been + -ing).

1. By next June, my dad (drive) ___ his hybrid for three years. _____
2. This time next year, our factory (build) ___ cars for 20 years. _____
3. By December, analysts (study) ___ the sales data for a year. _____
4. Next month, my aunt (work) ___ in car sales for ten years. _____
5. When I buy a new car, I (save) ___ for two years. _____

Teacher's Notes

TEACHERS ONLY

These notes are designed to help you get the most out of this lesson. Please do not share this page with students.


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I. LESSON GUIDE

- Timing: 8–10 minutes warm-up, 10 minutes vocabulary, 12–15 minutes reading and comprehension, 8–10 minutes grammar, 12–15 minutes discussion.
- Pre-teach or check: tariff, quota, safeguard, deficit, commissioner. Use simple import examples to clarify each term.
- Run the reading in two passes: gist first, then scan for the key figures and names. Policy views can feel personal; allow students to comment on the news rather than their own purchases if brand loyalty is sensitive.
- Differentiate by task: stronger students summarise one paragraph using the key numbers; others highlight data points and match them to the companies mentioned.

II. DISCUSSION FACILITATION TIPS

1. Take a quick show of hands, then pair students with different views to exchange reasons.
2. Elicit concrete tactics (pricing, features, service). Push for one example per tactic.
3. Board two columns (risks/benefits). Ask pairs to add one point to each side.
4. Have students predict one step each side could take before October, with a reason.

III. EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Debate: In teams, write and deliver a 90-second statement for or against quotas on hybrids.

Writing: In pairs, draft a 70-word brief for the VDA outlining two policy options and one risk.

IV. ANSWER KEY OVERVIEW

Comprehension questions: short factual answers from the text.

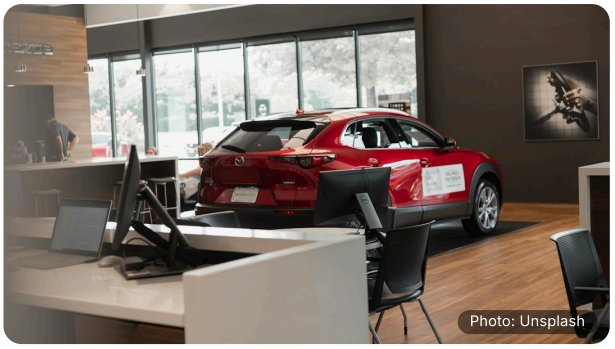
Grammar exercise: Future perfect continuous

Discussion: open-ended. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

Answer Key

TEACHERS ONLY

These answers are for teachers only. Please do not share this page with students.


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IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What EU action in 2024 preceded the jump in hybrid sales?
   Anti-subsidy tariffs on fully electric cars from China.
2. How many Chinese full hybrids were sold in Jan–Jul this year?
   160,662.
3. What market share do hybrids have, according to ACEA?
   Almost 37% of the overall market.
4. Which Chinese brand is currently the most popular in the EU?
   Geely.
5. What might happen if China does not reduce hybrid exports?
   Safeguards, likely quotas.

V. DISCUSSION

Open answers. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Complete each sentence with the future perfect continuous form (will have been + -ing).

1. By next June, my dad ___ his hybrid for three years. **will have been driving**
2. This time next year, our factory ___ cars for 20 years. **will have been building**
3. By December, analysts ___ the sales data for a year. **will have been studying**
4. Next month, my aunt ___ in car sales for ten years. **will have been working**
5. When I buy a new car, I ___ for two years. **will have been saving**

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Key point: Use will have been + verb-ing to show how long an action will be happening up to a future time point. It emphasises duration before that time. (Examples constructed.)

> *"Companies* **will have been selling** *hybrids for months by October."*
>
> *"EU imports* **will have been rising** *steadily by then."*