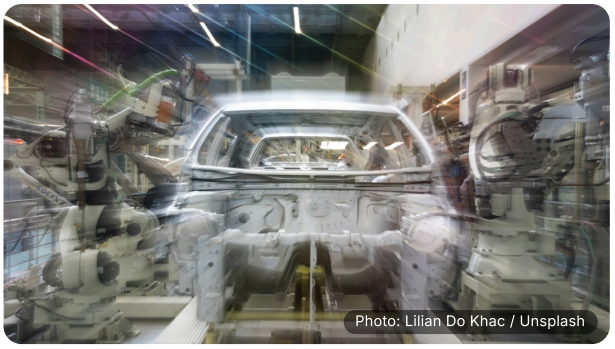
EU sets cap on Chinese hybrid imports

LEVEL B2


Photo: Lilian Do Khac / Unsplash

I. WARM-UP

1. What do you think a quota is in trade?
2. How could limits on imports affect local jobs?
3. Would you buy a hybrid car made overseas? Why or why not?

II. KEY VOCABULARY

quota
An official limit on how much of something can be imported or sold.

tariff
A tax a government puts on goods coming from another country.

customs
The government service that checks and controls goods at borders and ports.

market share
The percentage of total sales held by a company or country in a market.

safeguard
A protective rule used to prevent sudden harm to an industry.

deficit
When a country buys more from another country than it sells to it.

assemble
To put parts together to make a finished product.

dialogue
Formal talks between groups or governments to solve issues.

III. READING

The European Commission will cap imports of Chinese hybrid electric cars at 350,000 a year under a new quota starting in December. The move aims to cut China's market share in the EU from 6% to 3% over a four-year agreement reached in Beijing.

It uses World Trade Organization safeguard measures, allowing the limit to be applied quickly. About 800,000 battery and plug-in hybrids are likely to be sold this year. Any cars imported above the quota will face no new tariff, but will be blocked in customs at European docks.

Chinese vehicles made within the EU will be excluded, but EU brands that assemble cars in China will be covered. China's exports of hybrids to the EU jumped to €6.7bn in the first half of this year, from €2.2bn a year earlier.

As part of the deal, China will drop some tariffs on auto parts and halve duties on EU footwear, olive oil and ice-cream. Brussels says the policy responds to a £1bn-a-day trade deficit and fears of deindustrialisation. Further dialogue will continue on chemicals, renewable energy and furniture.

Reading text adapted from reporting by **The Guardian***: "EU to limit Chinese hybrid vehicle imports...". Original article linked at theenglishwire.com.*

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What annual limit did the EU set for Chinese hybrid car imports?
2. When will the new quota begin?
3. What happens to cars imported above the quota level?
4. Which Chinese cars are excluded from the quota?
5. Why did Brussels say it introduced this policy?

V. DISCUSSION

1. Is a quota better than a tariff in this case? Why?
2. How might this quota change car prices where you live?
3. Should the EU curb imports or push exports more?
4. What other sectors might face limits if talks stall?

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Future perfect continuous

Use will + have been + verb-ing to show how long an activity continues up to a future time. Common with BY + future time and often with FOR + duration.

"By next summer, EU ports **will have been blocking** *over-quota cars."*

"By the fourth year, Beijing and Brussels **will have been negotiating** *details."*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

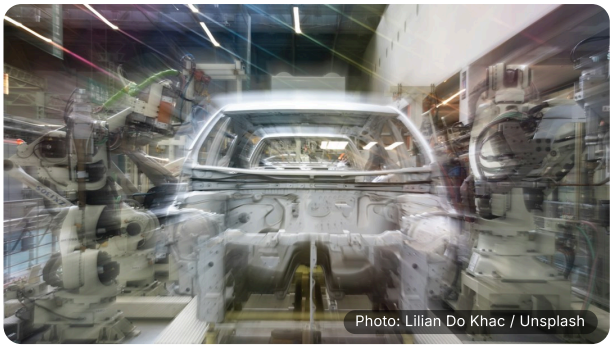
Complete each sentence with the future perfect continuous form.

1. By December, customs (prepare) ___ new dock checks for weeks. _____
2. By December, importers (adjust) ___ to the cap for weeks. _____
3. By next summer, carmakers (shift) ___ production plans for months. _____
4. By year four, buyers (compare) ___ EU and Chinese hybrids for years. _____
5. By the next round, officials (discuss) ___ terms for months. _____

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.


Photo: Lilian Do Khac / Unsplash

I. LESSON GUIDE

- Timing: 8–10 minutes warm-up, 10 minutes vocabulary, 12–15 minutes reading and comprehension, 8–10 minutes grammar, 10–12 minutes discussion.
- Pre-teach key terms likely to block meaning: quota, tariff, customs, market share, safeguard, deficit.
- Run a first skim for names and numbers, then a second read for policy details; pair students to compare evidence before checking as a class.
- Differentiation: stronger students summarise the EU's reasons in one sentence; others highlight the line for each answer before paraphrasing.

II. DISCUSSION FACILITATION TIPS

1. Start with a quick show of hands, then pair students from different sides to exchange reasons.
2. Elicit factors from the text (quota, tariffs, supply) and push for a concrete example or estimate.
3. Split the room into two groups (curb imports vs push exports); swap roles after three minutes.
4. Board three sectors mentioned in the text and have students predict effects with one reason each.

III. EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Debate: In teams, prepare and deliver a 90-second speech for or against the quota, then rebut.

Writing: Write a 100-word news brief updating this story three months after the quota starts.

IV. ANSWER KEY OVERVIEW

Comprehension questions: short factual answers from the text.

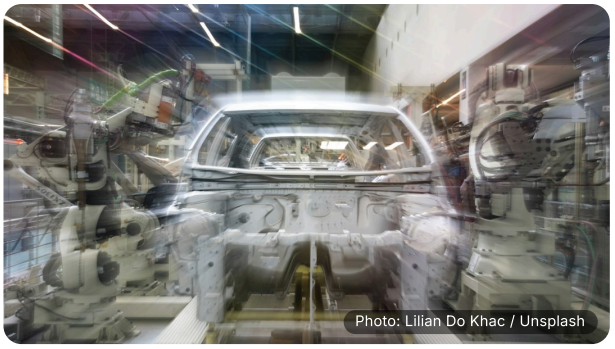
Grammar exercise: Future perfect continuous

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

Answer Key

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Photo: Lilian Do Khac / Unsplash

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What annual limit did the EU set for Chinese hybrid car imports?
   350,000 cars a year.
2. When will the new quota begin?
   In December.
3. What happens to cars imported above the quota level?
   They are blocked in customs at European docks.
4. Which Chinese cars are excluded from the quota?
   Chinese vehicles made within the EU.
5. Why did Brussels say it introduced this policy?
   To address a £1bn-a-day trade deficit and deindustrialisation fears.

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.

1. By December, customs ___ new dock checks for weeks. **will have been preparing**
2. By December, importers ___ to the cap for weeks. **will have been adjusting**
3. By next summer, carmakers ___ production plans for months. **will have been shifting**
4. By year four, buyers ___ EU and Chinese hybrids for years. **will have been comparing**
5. By the next round, officials ___ terms for months. **will have been discussing**

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Key point: Use will + have been + verb-ing to show how long an activity continues up to a future time. Common with BY + future time and often with FOR + duration. (Examples constructed.)

"By next summer, EU ports **will have been blocking** *over-quota cars."*

"By the fourth year, Beijing and Brussels **will have been negotiating** *details."*