

Future Continuous and Future Perfect Tenses

The Future Continuous tense is often used in English as a way to talk about something happening at a given point in the future.

Note that continuous tenses are also called progressive tenses. So the Future Continuous tense is sometimes called the Future Progressive tense.

In this lesson we look at the **use** and **structure** of the Future Continuous tense. In the end, we will see the comparison between the Future continuous and the Future perfect.

A. USES:

Use 1: Future actions in progress

The first use of the Future Continuous is to express future action in progress.

- In an hour, I will be sitting in front of my TV.
- In the evening, I will be baking a birthday cake.

Use 2: Guesses

Use this tense also to make guesses about something in the present or future.

- He won't be coming any time soon. He is still at the office.
- Beatrice will be getting married very soon.

Use 3: Questions

And the last use of the tense is to make polite questions about something or somebody.

- Will you be coming home before or after 10 PM?
- Will you be going to the supermarket? I have something to buy.

B. Structure: how do we make the Future Continuous?

1. subject	+	auxiliary <i>will</i>	+	auxiliary <i>be</i>	+	main verb
		will		be		present participle (-ing)

Look at these example sentences with the Future Continuous tense.

+ : Affirmative - : negative ? : Interrogative

	subject	auxiliary verb		auxiliary verb	main verb	
+	I	will		be	working	at 10am.
+	You	will		be	lying	on a beach tomorrow.
-	She	will	not	be	using	the car.
-	We	will	not	be	having	dinner at home. (he will not = he won't)
?	Will	you		be	playing	football?
?	Will	they		be	watching	TV?

C. Examples and comparison between the Future continuous and the Future perfect.

1/ 'I will be doing something' (future continuous) = I will be in the middle of doing something.

The football match begins at 7.30 and ends at 9.15. So during this time, for example at 8.30, Kevin will be watching the match.

Another example:

- **I'm going on holiday on Saturday. This time next week I'll be lying on a beach or swimming in the sea.**

Compare will be (do) ing and will (do):

- **Don't phone me between 7 and 8. We'll be having dinner then.**

- Let's wait for Mary to arrive and then we'll **have** dinner.

Compare **will be -ing** with other continuous forms:

- At 10 o'clock yesterday, Sally **was** in her office. She **was working**, (past)

It's 10 o'clock now. She is in her office. She **is working**, (present)

At 10 o'clock tomorrow; she **will be** in her office. She **will be working**.

2/ We also use **will be doing** in a different way: to talk about complete actions in the future:

- A: If you see Sally, can you ask her to phone me?
B: Sure. **I'll be seeing** her this evening, so I'll tell her then.
- What time **will your friends be arriving** tomorrow?

In these examples **will be -ing** is similar to the present continuous for the future.

You can use **Will you be -ing...?** To ask about somebody's plans, especially if you want something or want them to do something. For example:

- A: **Will you be passing** the post office when you're out?
B: Probably. Why?
A: I need some stamps. Could you get me some?

- A: **Will you be using** your bicycle this evening?

B: No. Do you want to borrow it?

3/ We use **will have (done)** (future perfect) to say that something will already be complete. Kevin's football match ends at 9.15. So after this time, for example at 9.30, the match **will have finished**.

Some more examples:

- Sally always leaves for work at 8.30 in the morning, so she won't be at home at 9 o'clock. **She'll have gone** to work.
- We're late. The film **will already have started** by the time we get to the cinema.

Compare **will have (done)** with other perfect forms:

- Ted and Amy **have been married** for 24 years, (present perfect)
Next year they **will have been married** for 25 years.

When their first child was born, they had been married for three years. (past perfect).

Remarks about the Future perfect :

Future Perfect has two different forms: "**will have done**" and "**be going to have done.**" Unlike Simple Future forms, Future Perfect forms are usually interchangeable.

FORM Future Perfect with "Will"

[will have + past participle]

Examples:

- You **will have perfected** your English by the time you come back from the U.S.
- **Will you have perfected** your English by the time you come back from the U.S.?
- You **will not have perfected** your English by the time you come back from the U.S.

FORM Future Perfect with "Be Going To"

[am/is/are + going to have + past participle]

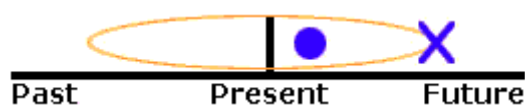
Examples:

- You **are going to have perfected** your English by the time you come back from the U.S.
- **Are you going to have perfected** your English by the time you come back from the U.S.?
- You **are not going to have perfected** your English by the time you come back from the U.S.

NOTE: It is possible to use either "will" or "be going to" to create the Future Perfect with little or no difference in meaning.

Complete List of Future Perfect Forms

USE 1 Completed Action Before Something in the Future



The Future Perfect expresses the idea that something will occur before another action in the future. It can also show that something will happen before a specific time in the future.

Examples:

- By next November, I **will have received** my promotion.
- By the time he *gets* home, she **is going to have cleaned** the entire house.
- I **am not going to have finished** this test by 3 o'clock.
- **Will** she **have learned** enough Chinese to communicate before she *moves* to Beijing?
- Sam **is** probably **going to have completed** the proposal by the time he *leaves* this afternoon.
- By the time I *finish* this course, I **will have taken** ten tests.
- How many countries **are you going to have visited** by the time you *turn 50*?

Notice in the examples above that the reference points (*marked in italics*) are in Simple Present rather than Simple Future. This is because the interruptions are in time clauses, and you cannot use future tenses in time clauses.

USE 2 Duration Before Something in the Future (Non-Continuous Verbs)



With Non-Continuous Verbs and some non-continuous uses of Mixed Verbs, we use the Future Perfect to show that something will continue up until another action in the future.

Examples:

- I **will have been** in London for six months by the time I leave.
- By Monday, Susan **is going to have had** my book for a week.

Although the above use of Future Perfect is normally limited to Non-Continuous Verbs and non-continuous uses of Mixed Verbs, the words "live," "work," "teach," and "study" are sometimes used in this way even though they are NOT Non-Continuous Verbs.

D. Exercise: use the right form of the future in the following examples :

1. This time tomorrow, Maria on a beach in Majorca. (sunbathe)
2. Wake me up by nine o'clock - I long enough by then. (sleep)
3. Look, I can give you a lift to the station - I that way anyway. (drive)
4. It's strange that when we get to Sydney, we half way round the world. (fly)
5. Don't phone me between 7 and 8. We dinner then. (have)
6. Phone me after 8 o'clock. We dinner by then. (finish)
7. Tomorrow afternoon we're going to play tennis from 3 o'clock until 4.30. So at 4 o'clock, we tennis. (play)
8. Do you think you the same job in ten years' time? (still/do)
9. By the time you get home I the house from top to bottom. (clean)
10. Tom is on holiday and he is spending his money very quickly. If he continues like this, he all his money before the end of his holiday. (spend)

Answers:

1. This time tomorrow, Maria **will be sunbathing** on a beach in Majorca. (sunbathe)
2. Wake me up by nine o'clock - I **will have slept** long enough by then. (sleep)
3. Look, I can give you a lift to the station - I **will be driving** that way anyway. (drive)
4. It's strange that when we get to Sydney, we **will have flown** half way round the world. (fly)
5. Don't phone me between 7 and 8. We **will be having** dinner then. (have)
6. Phone me after 8 o'clock. We **will have finished** dinner by then. (finish)
7. Tomorrow afternoon we're going to play tennis from 3 o'clock until 4.30. So at 4 o'clock, we **will be playing** tennis. (play)
8. Do you think you **will still be doing** the same job in ten years' time? (still/do)
9. By the time you get home I **will have cleaned** the house from top to bottom. (clean)
10. Tom is on holiday and he is spending his money very quickly. If he continues like this, he **will have spent** all his money before the end of his holiday. (spend)

Combined by Bob

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