

1. Future Tenses

1.2. The Future Continuous Tense

Future continuous has two different forms: "will be doing " and "be going to be doing." Unlike simple future forms, future continuous forms are usually interchangeable.

a. Form

Future Continuous with "Will": [will+ be + infinitive + ing]

- **Affirmative:** They'll be seeing that film on Wednesday.
- **Negative:** They won't be seeing that film on Wednesday.
- **Interrogative:** Will they be seeing that film on Wednesday?

Future Continuous with "Be Going To ": [am/is/are + going to be + infinitive+ ing]

- **Affirmative:** You **are going to be waiting** for her when her plane arrives tonight.
- **Negative:** **Are you going to be waiting** for her when her plane arrives tonight?
- **Interrogative:** You **are not going to be waiting** for her when her plane arrives tonight.

The Use: The future continuous tense is used when we talk about an activity or event going on at a particular time or over a particular period in the future:

1- for an action in progress at a particular time in the future:

- Ahmed can't go to the party. He'll be working all day tomorrow.
- She'll be cleaning the house at 11 in the morning.

2- for an arranged action in the future (its use is very similar to that of the present continuous):

- They'll be starting to play in ten minutes' time.

But the future continuous can be used for the more distant or less definite future:

- I'll be meeting him again sometime.

Whereas the present continuous expresses a nearer or more definite future:

- I'm meeting him again tomorrow.

3- To ask about someone's plans to sound particularly polite, especially if you want something or want them to do something for you.

- A: Will you be passing a chemist when you are out? B: Yes, why?
A: Could you get some aspirin, please?
- A: How long will you be using the computer? B: You can have it in a minute.

4- Interrupted Action in the Future

Use the future continuous to indicate that a longer action in the future will be interrupted by a shorter action in the future. Remember this can be a real interruption or just an interruption in time.

- I **will be watching** TV when she *arrives* tonight.
- I'll **be sleeping** when you come back.
- I **am going to be staying** at the Madison Hotel, if anything *happens* and you *need* to contact me.
- He **will be studying** at the library tonight, so he will not see Jennifer when she *arrives*.

Notice in the examples above that the interruptions (*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.

5- Specific Time as an Interruption in the Future

In USE 4, described above, the future continuous is interrupted by a short action in the future. In addition to using short actions as interruptions, you can also use a specific time as an interruption.

- Tonight at 6 PM, I **am going to be eating** dinner.
I will be in the process of eating dinner.
- At midnight tonight, we **will still be driving** through the desert.
We will be in the process of driving through the desert.

REMEMBER

In the simple future, a specific time is used to show the time an action will begin or end. In the future continuous, a specific time interrupts the action.

- Tonight at 6 PM, I **am going to eat** dinner.
I am going to start eating at 6 PM.
- Tonight at 6 PM, I **am going to be eating** dinner.
I am going to start earlier and I will be in the process of eating dinner at 6 PM.

6- Parallel Actions in the Future

When you use the future continuous with two actions in the same sentence, it expresses the idea that both actions will be happening at the same time. The actions are parallel.

- I **am going to be studying** and he **is going to be making** dinner.
- Tonight, they **will be eating** dinner, **discussing** their plans, and **having** a good time.
- While Ellen *is reading*, Tim **will be watching** television.

7- Stative verbs

It is important to remember that non-continuous verbs cannot be used in any continuous tenses. Instead of using future continuous with these verbs, you must use simple future.

- Jane **will be being** at my house when you arrive. *Not Correct*
- Jane **will be** at my house when you arrive. *Correct*

Adverb Placement

The examples below show the placement for grammar adverbs such as: always, only, never, ever, still, just, etc.

- You will **still** be waiting for her when her plane arrives.
- Will you **still** be waiting for her when her plane arrives?
- You are **still** going to be waiting for her when her plane arrives.
- Are you **still** going to be waiting for her when her plane arrives?