

1. Future Tenses

1.4. The Future Perfect continuous Tense

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

a. Form

Future Perfect Continuous with "Will": [will+ have+ been + present participle]

- You **will have been waiting** for more than two hours when her plane finally arrives.
- **Will you have been waiting** for more than two hours when her plane finally arrives?
- You **will not have been waiting** for more than two hours when her plane finally arrives.

Future Perfect Continuous with "Be Going To": [am/is/are + going to +have +been + present participle]

- You **are going to have been waiting** for more than two hours when her plane finally arrives.
- **Are you going to have been waiting** for more than two hours when her plane finally arrives?
- You **are not going to have been waiting** for more than two hours when her plane finally arrives.

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

The future perfect continuous tense is used:

Like the future perfect, we use the future perfect continuous tense (also known as the **future perfect progressive tense**) to indicate how long something has been happening once a future moment in time is reached; the emphasis is on the continual progression of the action. It can also be used to indicate the cause of a possible future result. We can **only** use the future perfect continuous with **action verbs**.

- 1- **For an action which begin before a certain future time and will have finished by that time** (i.e. we look ahead to a future time and imagine an action lasting from a point before that time up to that future time).

- By the time you reach the city, you'll have been driving for two hours.

OR For activities that will continue until a point of time in the future and will not be completed. The emphasis is on the continual progression of the action.

- By next December, we'll have been living here for 25 years.
- By the end of the month he will have been training horses/climbing mountains for twenty years.

But if we mention the number of horses or mountains, or divide this action in any way, we must use the future perfect;

- By the end of the month he will have trained 600 horses/climbed 50 mountains.

This form stresses the continuity of the action rather than the action itself.

2- Duration Before Something in the Future

We use the future perfect continuous to show that something will continue up until a particular event or time in the future. "For five minutes," "for two weeks," and "since Friday" are all durations which can be used with the future perfect continuous. Notice that this is related to the present perfect continuous and the past perfect continuous; however, with future perfect continuous, the duration stops at or before a reference point in the future.

- They **will have been talking** for over an hour by the time Thomas *arrives*.
- She **is going to have been working** at that company for three years when it finally *closes*.
- James **will have been teaching** at the university for more than a year by the time he *leaves* for Asia.
- How long **will you have been studying** when you *graduate*?

Notice in the examples above that the reference points (*marked in italics*) are in simple present rather than simple future. This is because these future events are in time clauses, and you cannot use future tenses in time clauses.

3- Cause of Something in the Future

Using the future perfect continuous before another action in the future is a good way to show cause and effect.

- Jason will be tired when he gets home because he **will have been jogging** for over an hour.
- Claudia's English will be perfect when she returns to Germany because she **is going to have been studying** English in the United States for over two years.

1- Future Continuous vs. Future Perfect Continuous

If you do not include a duration such as "for five minutes," "for two weeks" or "since Friday," many English speakers choose to use the future continuous rather than the future perfect continuous. Be careful because this can change the meaning of the sentence. Future continuous emphasizes interrupted actions, whereas future perfect continuous emphasizes a duration of time before something in the future. Study the examples below to understand the difference.

- He will be tired because he **will be exercising** so hard.
This sentence emphasizes that he will be tired because he will be exercising at that exact moment in the future
- He will be tired because he **will have been exercising** so hard.
This sentence emphasizes that he will be tired because he will have been exercising for a period of time. It is possible that he will still be exercising at that moment OR that he will just have finished.

2- REMEMBER Non-Continuous Verbs

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

- Ned **will have been having** his driver's license for over two years. *Not Correct*
- Ned **will have had** his driver's license for over two years. *Correct*

Adverb Placement

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

- You will **only** have been waiting for a few minutes when her plane arrives.
- Will you **only** have been waiting for a few minutes when her plane arrives?
- You are **only** going to have been waiting for a few minutes when her plane arrives.
- Are you **only** going to have been waiting for a few minutes when her plane arrives?

Active / Passive Form

- The famous artist **will have been painting** the mural for over six months by the time it is finished. *Active*
- The mural **will have been being painted** by the famous artist for over six months by the time it is finished. *Passive*
- The famous artist **is going to have been painting** the mural for over six months by the time it is finished. *Active*
- The mural **is going to have been being painted** by the famous artist for over six months by the time it is finished. *Passive*

REMEMBER

No Future in Time Clauses

What is a time clause?

Time clauses are preceded by adverbs or adverb phrases which show that they represent a time. Examples of these adverbs or adverb phrases are: **when, before, after, as soon as, until.**

all future forms, the simple future, the future continuous, the future perfect, the future perfect continuous cannot be used in clauses beginning with time expressions such as: when, while, before, after, by the time, as soon as, if, unless, etc.

The *future tense* is used in the main clause. The *present simple* tense is used in the time clause. When two clauses are joined by adverbs of time or adverb phrases, *the future form should not be repeated*.

We can use different present tenses in future time clauses: the simple present, present progressive or present perfect simple.

Instead of simple future, simple present is used.

- When you **will arrive** tonight, we will go out for dinner. *Not Correct*
- When you **arrive** tonight, we will go out for dinner. *Correct*

Instead of future continuous, present continuous is used.

- While I **am going to be finishing** my homework, she is going to make dinner. *Not Correct*
- While I **am finishing** my homework, she is going to make dinner. *Correct*

Instead of future perfect, present perfect is used.

- I am going to see a movie when I **will have finished** my homework. *Not Correct*
- I am going to see a movie when I **have finished** my homework. *Correct*

Simple present or present perfect?

The simple present and the present perfect simple are sometimes interchangeable in future time clauses.

- Rosie *will move* abroad as soon as she finishes uni. = Rosie *will move* abroad as soon as she has finished uni.

However, the present perfect shows that the actions are sequential, not simultaneous.

- Nora *will call* Salim when she cooks/is cooking dinner.
chatting on the phone and cooking at the same time
- Nora *will call* Salim when she has cooked dinner.
first dinner is finished, then she makes the phone call

1. Other Future Forms

1.1 The Present Continuous

The present continuous tense is used:

- 1- To express an arrangement for the future, i.e., we have decided and arranged to do something (the time and /or the place of arrangement is often mentioned)

- *I'm meeting my uncle on Saturday evening.*
- *I'm going to the stadium. I've bought the tickets.*

* The difference between the 'be going to' and the present continuous to express the future is very thin. Often we can use either forms.

- *I'm meeting Ali at eight. / I'm going to meet Ali at eight.*

*The use of verbs of motion such as *to go* and *to come* with the 'going to' is generally avoided, the present continuous is used instead.

- *We are going to the zoo this weekend. (We ~~are going to go~~ ...)*

1.2 The Present Simple

The present Simple tense is used:

1- to express scheduled future events, usually public ones such as train timetables or travel agency programs.

- *The train leaves at 7:30 tomorrow morning.*
- *We land at midnight.*
- *What time does the film begin?*
- *Next Tuesday is the seventeenth.*

the present continuous

-Used to express an arrangement. (an intention already arranged)

- *I'm leaving tomorrow. I've bought my plane tickets.*

be going to

-Used to express an intention. (an intention but perhaps not arranged to do it)

- *Next week, I'm going to look for an new flat to live alone.*

Other ways to talk about the future

1. **Be to + infinitive** is used to talk about formal or official arrangements, formal instructions, and to give orders. It is particularly common in news reports to talk about future events.

- I am to pick up my ticket from Mr Smith

This form refers to an obligation to do something at a time later than now. It is similar to 'must', but there is a suggestion that something has been arranged or organised for us.

We only use **be to + infinitive** to talk about things that can be controlled by people:

- We don't know where the meteorite **is going to** land, (*not ...the meteorite is to land.*)
- I suppose we **will** all die eventually, (*not ...we are all to die...*)

2. Be+ about to+ infinitive

- She is about to leave

This form refers to a time immediately after the moment of speaking, and emphasises that the event or action will happen very soon.

3. IS TO + INFINITIVE

- The Prime Minister has announced that there **is to be** an election on May 1st.

This form refers to an obligation to do something at a time later than now. It is similar to 'must', but there is a suggestion that something has been arranged or organised for us.