



Beginner

Future Continuous Tense

RULES AND EXAMPLES

IMPORTANT No Future in Time Clauses

Like all future forms, the Future Continuous cannot be used in clauses beginning with "when", "while", "before", "after", "by the time", "as soon as", "if" and "unless". In this lesson, all verbs in Time Clauses are italicized.

EXAMPLES:

While I am finishing my homework, she is going to make dinner. **Correct**

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

NOUN/PRONOUN + [WILL BE] + [VERB+ing]

EXAMPLE: *When your plane arrives tonight, I will be waiting for you.*

NOUN/PRONOUN + [AM / IS / ARE] + [GOING TO] + [VERBing]

EXAMPLE: *When your plane arrives tonight, I am going to be waiting for you.*

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

Interrupted Action in the Future

Use the Future Continuous to indicate that a longer action in the future will be interrupted. The interruption is usually an action in the Simple Future. Remember this can be a real interruption or just an interruption in time.

EXAMPLES:

1. I will be watching TV when she *arrives* tonight.
2. I will be waiting for you when your bus *arrives*.

Specific time as an interruption

In USE 1, described above, the Future Continuous is interrupted by an action in the Simple Future. However, you can also use a specific time as an interruption.

EXAMPLES:

1. Tonight at 6 p.m., I am going to be eating dinner.
2. At midnight tonight, we will still be driving through the desert.

IMPORTANT

In the Simple Future a specific time is used to show the time an action will begin. In the Future Continuous, a specific time only interrupts the action.

Parallel Actions

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. These are Parallel Actions.

EXAMPLES:

1. I am going to be studying while he is making dinner.
2. While Ellen is reading, Tim will be watching television.