

A

Future continuous: I will be doing

Reminder → B8

We can use the future continuous to talk about:

(i) something that is predicted to start before a particular point of future time, and that may continue after this point (often the result of a previous decision or arrangement):

- When it goes into orbit, the spacecraft **will be carrying** 30 kilos of plutonium.
- Anna **will be helping** us to organise the party.

(ii) a future activity that is part of the normal course of events or that is one of a repeated or regular series of events:

- Dr Lin **will be giving** the same talk in room 103 at ten next Thursday.
- Will you be driving** to work, as usual?

We can often use either the future continuous or the present continuous when we talk about arranged activities or events in the future (see also Unit 10). Compare:

- We **will be leaving** for Istanbul at 7:00 in the evening. (timetabled; *or ... are leaving ...*) *and*
- When the race starts later this afternoon the drivers **will be hoping** for drier weather than last year. (*not ... are hoping ...*; not reporting the details of a programme or timetable)

B

When we don't want to indicate willingness, intention, invitation, etc., we prefer to use the future continuous instead of **will**. For example, if guests have stayed longer than you wanted, and you don't know when they are leaving, you might ask:

- Will you be staying** with us again tonight? (asking about their plans) *rather than*
- Will you stay** with us again tonight? (they might think this is an invitation)

C

Future perfect and future perfect continuous: I will have done and I will have been doing

We use the future perfect to say that something will be ended, completed, or achieved by a particular point in the future:

- By the time you get home* I **will have cleaned** the house from top to bottom.
- I'm sure his awful behaviour **will soon have been forgotten**. (= passive form)

We use the future perfect continuous to emphasise the duration of an activity in progress at a particular point in the future:

- Next year* I **will have been working** in the company for 30 years.

With both the future perfect and future perfect continuous we usually mention the future time (e.g. *By the time you get home ...*, *Next year ...*).

D

The future continuous, future perfect and future perfect continuous can also be used to say what we believe or imagine is happening around now:

- We could ask to borrow Joe's car. He **won't be using** it today – he went to work by bike.
- Most people **will have forgotten** the fire by now.
- Tennis fans **will have been queuing** at Wimbledon all day to buy tickets.

We can use the future perfect continuous to say what we think was happening at a point in the past:

- Motorist Vicky Hesketh **will have been asking** herself whether speed cameras are a good idea after she was fined £100 last week for driving at 33 mph in a 30 mph zone.

Exercises

11.1 Complete both sentences in each pair with one verb from the box. Use the future continuous (**will / won't be + -ing**) in one sentence and **will / won't + infinitive** in the other. **A & B**

give leave move use work

- 1 a We in an hour or so, so make sure your suitcase is packed.
b Without more cheap housing, families the village and find homes in town.
- 2 a you late at the office again? I want to know when to cook.
b A: We need to get this order sent out before Monday.
b: Well, I over the weekend if that will help.
- 3 a I my car until next week, so you can borrow it if you like.
b My grandad a computer. He says he's very happy with his old typewriter.
- 4 a Is your suitcase very heavy? I you a hand with it if you like.
b Dr Sankey evidence at the trial of James Morgan next week.
- 5 a He's parked his car across our drive and says he it. Shall I call the police?
b The two schools to a single campus at the beginning of September.

11.2 Make sentences with a beginning from (i), a verb from (ii) (either in the future perfect or future perfect continuous), and an ending from (iii). **C & D**

(i)	(ii)	(iii)
1 The weather forecast says that the rain ...	act achieve clear finish discover read	... the objective we set ourselves when we took over.
2 If the company is making a profit by the end of the year then we by the morning and tomorrow will be dry.
3 In two years' time Morneau for 50 years, and shows no sign of retiring from the theatre.
4 I am confident that I the report before the end of the week.
5 This book on Proust is really difficult. On Saturday I it for a month, and I'm still only half way.
6 As delegates who arrived early there have been some late changes to the conference programme.

- 1 The weather forecast says that the rain will have cleared by the morning and tomorrow will be dry.

11.3 Here is part of an email from Emily, an English teacher in Japan, to her friend Rosa. Underline the correct option. **A & D**

Hi Rosa

Greetings from Osaka! Hope this finds you all well. I suppose by now school (1) *will close / will have closed* for Christmas and you (2) *will be enjoying / will have been enjoying* a rest. It's hard to believe that Tim's already 18 and that it's only a few months until he (3) *will be leaving / will have been leaving* school for college.

My main news is that my brother, Joe, and his family (4) *will have been arriving / will be arriving* next Friday as part of their big trip around the world. By the time they get here they (5) *will be going / will have been to* California and New Zealand. No doubt Joe's children (6) *will have been planning / will plan* it all out for months! They (7) *won't be spending / won't have spent* all their time with me. Joe has to go to Tokyo on business, so I (8) *will have kept / will be keeping* the rest of the family entertained while he's away. Then they (9) *will all be going / will all have been going* to Kyoto ...