

# Will be doing and will have done

## A

Study this example situation:

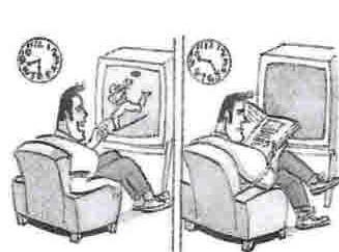
Kevin loves football and tonight there is a big football game on TV. The game begins at 7:30 and ends at 9:15. Paul wants to see Kevin tonight and wants to know what time to come over.

**Paul:** Is it all right if I come at about 8:30?

**Kevin:** No, I'll be watching the game then.

**Paul:** Well, what about 9:30?

**Kevin:** Fine. The game will have ended by then.



## B

I will be doing something (*future continuous*) = I will be in the middle of doing something. The football game begins at 7:30 and ends at 9:15. So during this time, for example at 8:30, Kevin will be watching the game. Another example:

- I'm leaving on vacation this Saturday. This time next week I'll be lying on a beach or swimming in the ocean.

Compare will be doing and will do:

- Don't call me between 7 and 8. We'll be having dinner then.
- Let's wait for Maria to arrive, and then we'll have dinner.

Compare will be doing with other continuous forms:

- At 10:00 yesterday, Kelly was in her office. She was working. (*past*)  
It's 10:00 now. She is in her office. She is working. (*present*)  
At 10:00 tomorrow, she will be in her office. She will be working. (*future*)

## C

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

- I'll be seeing Kelly at the meeting this evening.
- What time will your friends be arriving tomorrow?

In these examples, will be doing is similar to the present continuous with a future meaning. (See Unit 18A.)

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 using your car tonight?  
B: Why? Do you want to borrow it?

## D

We use will have done (*future perfect*) to say that something will already be complete before a time in the future. Kevin's football game ends at 9:15. So after this time, for example at 9:30, the game will have ended. Some more examples:

- Kelly always leaves for work at 8:30 in the morning, so she won't be home at 9:00. She'll have gone to work.
- We're late. The movie will already have started by the time we get to the theater.

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

# Exercises

**23.1** Read about Josh. Then put a check (✓) by the sentences that are true. In each group of sentences, at least one is true.

Josh goes to work every day. After breakfast, he leaves home at 8:00 and arrives at work at about 8:45. He starts work immediately and continues until 12:30, when he has lunch (which takes about half an hour). He starts work again at 1:15 and goes home at exactly 4:30. Every day he follows the same routine, and tomorrow will be no exception.



1. At 7:45  
 a) he'll be leaving the house.  
 b) he'll have left the house.  
 c) he'll be at home. ✓  
 d) he'll be having breakfast. ✓



4. At 12:45  
 a) he'll have lunch.  
 b) he'll be having lunch.  
 c) he'll have finished his lunch.  
 d) he'll have started his lunch.



2. At 8:15  
 a) he'll be leaving the house.  
 b) he'll have left the house.  
 c) he'll have arrived at work.  
 d) he'll be arriving at work.



5. At 4:00  
 a) he'll have finished work.  
 b) he'll finish work.  
 c) he'll be working.  
 d) he won't have finished work.



3. At 9:15  
 a) he'll be working.  
 b) he'll start work.  
 c) he'll have started work.  
 d) he'll be arriving at work.



6. At 4:45  
 a) he'll leave work.  
 b) he'll be leaving work.  
 c) he'll have left work.  
 d) he'll have arrived home.

**23.2** Put the verb into the correct form, *will be (do)ing* or *will have (done)*.

- Don't phone me between 7 and 8. We'll be having (we / have) dinner then.
- Call me after 8:00. \_\_\_\_\_ (we / finish) dinner by then.
- Tomorrow afternoon we're going to play tennis from 3:00 until 4:30. So at 4:00, \_\_\_\_\_ (we / play) tennis.
- A: Can we meet tomorrow afternoon?  
B: I'm afraid not. \_\_\_\_\_ (I / work).
- (B has to go to a meeting that begins at 10:00. It will last about an hour.)  
A: Will you be free at 11:30?  
B: Yes, \_\_\_\_\_ (the meeting / end) by then.
- Ben is on vacation, and he is spending his money very quickly. If he continues like this, \_\_\_\_\_ (he / spend) all his money before the end of his vacation.
- Do you think \_\_\_\_\_ (you / still / do) the same job in ten years' time?
- Lisa is from New Zealand. She is traveling around Canada at the moment. So far she has traveled about 1,000 miles. By the end of the trip, \_\_\_\_\_ (she / travel) more than 3,000 miles.
- If you need to contact me, \_\_\_\_\_ (I / stay) at the Bellmore Hotel until Friday.
- A: \_\_\_\_\_ (you / see) Tracy tomorrow?  
B: Yes, probably. Why?  
A: I borrowed this book from her. Could you give it back to her?