

AC Grammar Refresher: Verb Tenses - Future

- Future Simple
- Going to
- Present Tenses for the Future
- Future Continuous
- Future Perfect Simple
- Future Perfect Continuous

PART 1: Let's start with the Basics of 'will'

1. Future Simple

She **will read** books every evening

= Describes routine actions or habit in the future

SUBJECT + WILL + VERB + OBJECT/REST OF SENTENCE

2. Future Continuous

They **will be playing** football in the park

= Describes an action that will be ongoing at a specific moment in the future

SUBJECT + WILL BE + VERB-ING +/- OBJECT/REST OF SENTENCE

3. Future Perfect Simple

I **will have worked** as a teacher for a year by January

= The future perfect is used to describe an action or event that will be finished before a certain future time.

SUBJECT + HAD + PAST PARTICIPLE + OBJECT + TIME PHRASE

4. Future Perfect Continuous

We **will have been living** in Hungary for one year before we **get** a dog

When you visit us next spring, we **will have been living** in Budapest for over a year.

= The future perfect continuous can be used to predict the length of an activity. The tense looks back from the imagined finishing time in the future.

SUBJECT + WILL HAVE BEEN + PRESENT PARTICIPLE +/- OBJECT/TIME PHRASE/ ROS

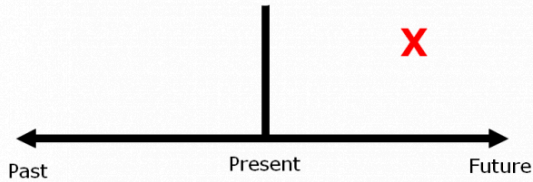
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Future Simple

will + verb

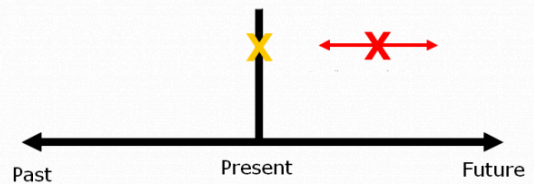
We will go to the cinema
She will not drive a car today.
Will she close these doors?



Future Perfect

will + have + past participle

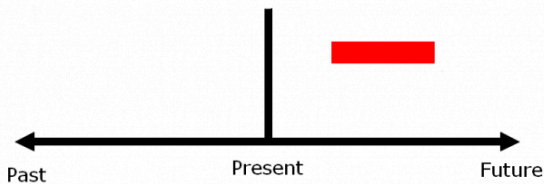
She will have married on Friday.
I will not have been at home when you come.
When will we have left Japan?



Future Continuous

will + be + ing form

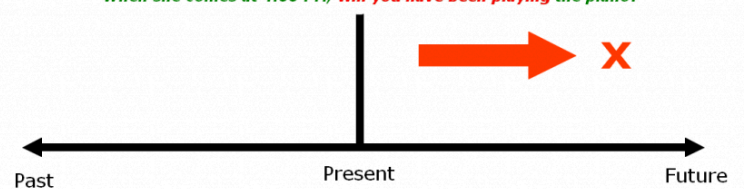
I will be living in London.
I will not be living in London.
Will I be living in London?



Future Perfect Continuous

will + have + been + ing form

I will have been working at the shoe store for 3 years in May
I will not have been waiting there for more than 30 minutes when the train comes.
When she comes at 4:00 PM, will you have been playing the piano?



Grammar

1. Your subject and verb must agree in number.
2. Adverbs of frequency (e.g., **always**, **never**, **often**, **seldom**) can typically be used with the future tense, but there are exceptions.
3. The verb "**will**" or "**shall**" should always come before the main verb.
4. The verb "**will**" or "**shall**" should not be used with other modal verbs.
5. The verb "**will**" or "**shall**" should be used with the verb "**to be**".

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☀ **AN ALTERNATIVE TO will is 'going to' = one of the most use constructions!**

He *is going to buy* a new pair of trousers

= The future perfect continuous can be used to predict the length of an activity. The tense looks back from the imagined finishing time in the future.

SUBJECT + 'BE' + 'GOING TO' + BASE FORM OF VERB +/- REST OF SENTENCE

1. **GOING TO FOR FUTURE PLANS:**

I'm *going to start watching* this TV series soon

2. **GOING TO FOR PREDICTIONS:**

Look at the weather forecast. It's *going to rain* soon

(Evidence in the present moment means you can make a prediction)

3. **QUESTIONS WITH GOING TO:**

You *are going to* class today → *Are you going to* class today?

(Evidence in the present moment means you can make a prediction)

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PART 2

ACTIVITY 1: GOING TO →

Can you create some of your own 'going to' sentences for the future tense in a real context related to your everyday life:

A FUTURE PLAN: _____

A PREDICTION: _____

A QUESTION: _____

ACTIVITY 2: GOING TO vs. WILL

It's all context dependent, but what's the difference in meaning between each pair? Match the answers below with each sentence to compare underlying meaning:

(BULB ICON = ANSWER IN WHITE - CHANGE FONT COLOUR - ONLY IN GOOGLE DOC VERSION)



Intentions and Plans:

- A. "I'm going to visit Paris next summer." 💡
B. "I will visit Paris next summer." 💡



Predictions:

- C. "Look at those dark clouds. It's going to storm soon." 💡
D. "I think it will storm tomorrow." 💡



Promises, Offers, and Requests:

- E. "I will call you when I get home." 💡
F. "I'm going to call you when I get home" 💡
G. "Will you call me when you're home?" 💡

Request

Plan made in advance

General prediction

Promise

Intention and Expectation

Decision made now

Based on evidence

More exercises to do in BLUE Cambridge Grammar Book [UNIT 20](#)

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IN OTHER WORDS...



WILL = More formal, often used for decisions made on the spot, promises, & strong predictions 🦾

GOING TO: More informal, used for pre-decided plans, intentions, & predictions based on present evidence. ☔

ACTIVITY 2: “WILL” (Simple future intro) OR “GOING TO”?

Work through each sentence with “will” and “going to”, which works better and why? Think about context and how you would use it!

1. I _____ (give) you a ride to the station if you need one.
2. You look tired. I _____ (make) you a cup of tea.
3. We _____ (move) to a new house next year.
4. I think technology _____ (change) drastically in the next decade.
5. I'm out of coffee. I _____ (go) to the store to buy some.
6. This dress doesn't fit me. I _____ (try) the next size up.
7. She _____ (start) a new job next month.
8. I _____ (help) you with your homework after dinner
9. Look at those dark clouds. It _____ (rain) soon.
10. You seem lost. I _____ (show) you the way.
11. I _____ (visit) my grandparents next weekend.
12. Don't worry, I _____ (call) you as soon as I arrive.
13. They _____ (win) the game, I can feel it.
14. That bag looks heavy. I _____ (carry) it for you.
15. I promise I _____ (finish) the report by tomorrow.

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3b) It's in the detail

Even though you can use 'going to' and 'will' grammatically and it sounds fine, there are better uses aligned with meaning. Can you correct any mistakes in the transcript below?

A: Look at the weather forecast. It will rain tomorrow.

B: Really? I am going to think it will be sunny.

A: By the way, I forgot to tell you. I am going to buy some groceries later. Do you need anything?

B: Actually, I ran out of milk. I will get some for you.

A: Thanks! Oh, and don't forget, we will have our meeting at 3 PM.





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- PART 3: USING PRESENT TENSES FOR THE FUTURE** 🌟
- Activity 5: We go to Italy tomorrow...**

Highlight the uses of all present tenses

Imagine you're planning a trip to Italy. Tomorrow morning, you catch the early flight to Rome. The tour guide meets you at the airport and takes you on a fascinating journey through the Colosseum and the Roman Forum. Later in the afternoon, you stroll through the charming streets of Trastevere and stop for a delicious gelato. In the evening, you have dinner at a traditional trattoria where you sample authentic Italian cuisine. The following day, you visit the Vatican City and marvel at the beauty of St. Peter's Basilica. You conclude your trip with a leisurely walk along the banks of the Tiber River, enjoying the breathtaking views of the city.

Present Tenses ▼	Used for the future? ▶▶



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5a) Spotting the Patterns

Keep in mind:

Present Simple:

- Used for scheduled future events.
- Example: "The train **leaves** at 9 AM tomorrow."
- Keywords: tomorrow, next week, on Monday, in two days.

Present Continuous:

- Used for planned future arrangements or fixed plans.
- Example: "She **is meeting** her friend for lunch later."
- Keywords: tonight, this evening, next month, next year.

Patterns in Context:

- Present simple often indicates fixed timetables or schedules.
- Present continuous suggests arrangements or plans that are already decided.
- Both forms emphasise the certainty or regularity of future events.

Signal Words:

- Words and phrases like "tomorrow," "next," "this," "soon," "in (time period)" typically indicate future time and can signal the use of present tenses.

5b) Can you think of more signal words like these:

Tomorrow	next	This [X]	In [X]
soon			



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□ 5c) Cambridge Grammar Practice - Unit 19 - I am doing / I do...

Exercises

Unit
19

19.1 Ask Anna about her holiday plans.



- 1 (where / go?) Where are you going?
- 2 (how long / go for?) _____
- 3 (when / leave?) _____
- 4 (go / alone?) _____
- 5 (travel / by car?) _____
- 6 (where / stay?) _____

Scotland.
Ten days.
Next Friday.
No, with a friend.
No, by train.
In a hotel.

19.2 Complete the sentences.

- 1 Steve isn't playing (not / play) football on Saturday. He's hurt his leg.
- 2 _____ (We / have) a party next week. We've invited all our friends.
- 3 _____ (I / not / work) tomorrow. It's a public holiday.
- 4 _____ (I / leave) now. I've come to say goodbye.
- 5 'What time _____ (you / go) out this evening?' 'Seven o'clock.'
- 6 _____ (Laura / not / come) to the party tomorrow. She isn't well.
- 7 I love New York. _____ (I / go) there soon.
- 8 Ben can't meet us on Monday. _____ (He / work) late.

19.3 Have you arranged to do anything at these times? Write sentences about yourself.

- 1 (this evening) I'm not doing anything this evening.
- 2 (tomorrow morning) I _____
- 3 (tomorrow evening) I _____
- 4 (next Sunday) I _____
- 5 (another day or time) _____

19.4 Complete the sentences. Use the present continuous or present simple.

- 1 A: Tina, are you ready yet?
B: Yes, I'm coming (I / come).
- 2 A: _____ (you / go) to Sam's party on Saturday?
B: No, I haven't been invited.
- 3 A: Has Jack moved into his new apartment yet?
B: Not yet, but _____ (he / move) soon – probably at the end of the month.
- 4 A: _____ (I / go) to a concert tonight.
B: That's nice. What time _____ (it / start)?
- 5 A: Have you seen Chris recently?
B: No, but _____ (we / meet) for lunch next week.
- 6 A: _____ (you / do) anything tomorrow morning?
B: No, I'm free. Why?
- 7 A: When _____ (this term / end)?
B: Next Friday. And next term _____ (start) four weeks after that.
- 8 A: _____ (We / go) to a wedding at the weekend.
B: Really? _____ (Who / get) married?
- 9 A: There's football on TV later tonight. _____ (you / watch) it?
B: No, I'm not interested.
- 10 A: What time is your train tomorrow?
B: It _____ (leave) at 9.35 and _____ (arrive) at 12.47.
- 11 A: I'd like to go and see the exhibition at the museum. How long is it on for?
B: _____ (It / finish) next week.
- 12 A: Do you need the car this evening?
B: No, you can have it. _____ (I / not / use) it.

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5d) These are present tense sentences used for the future. True or False? 🤔 ✅ ❌

- "She is leaving for Tokyo next week." 💡
- "She is going to Greece last summer." 💡
- "We will visit our grandparents every summer." 💡
- "The conference starts at 10 AM tomorrow." 💡
- "He is flying to Paris yesterday." 💡
- "They are meeting us for lunch this afternoon." 💡
- "Next month, I will be having surgery." 💡
- "The train leaves in 5 minutes." 💡
- "We are attending the seminar next Friday." 💡
- "Tomorrow, they are buying a new car." 💡

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PART 4

ACTIVITY 6: Future Continuous and Future Perfect Simple

Let's have another look at new examples...

A) Future Continuous

They *will be laughing* so much at this

= Describes an action that will be ongoing at a specific moment in the future

SUBJECT + WILL BE + VERB-ING +/- OBJECT/REST OF SENTENCE

B) Future Perfect Simple

I *will have been* an entrepreneur for almost twelve weeks now!

= The future perfect is used to describe an action or event that will be finished before a certain future time.

SUBJECT + HAD + PAST PARTICIPLE + OBJECT + TIME PHRASE

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6a) **Future Continuous** Common Examples in conversation

-> *By this time tomorrow, you'll be laughing at how good you are at English tenses* 🙌

- **This time next week**, we _____ (celebrate) our anniversary at a fancy restaurant.
- **By 10 PM tonight**, I _____ (finish) writing my report.
- **At this time next year**, they _____ (travel) around South America.
- **By the time you arrive**, I _____ (prepare) dinner for us.
- **By this time next month**, she _____ (study) for her final exams.

Can you create your own with one of these subjunctive clauses? 🙌

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6b) **Future Perfect Simple** Common Examples in conversation

-> **By the time we finish verb tenses, you'll have already spoken English tenses ten times over with me in natural conversation!** 🙌

- By the time you arrive, I _____ (finish) cleaning the house.
- By next month, he _____ (complete) his master's degree.
- By the end of the year, we _____ (live) in this city for five years.
- By the time the concert starts, she _____ (practice) the piano for two hours.

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6c) WHEN DO I USE FUTURE CONTINUOUS vs. PERFECT??? → Cambridge Grammar Comparisons, UNIT 24

Unit 24 will be doing and will have done

A Study this example situation:

These people are standing in a queue to get into the cinema.

Half an hour from now, the cinema will be full. Everyone **will be watching** the film.

Three hours from now, the cinema will be empty. The film **will have finished**. Everyone **will have gone** home.

B I **will be doing** something (future continuous) = I will be in the middle of doing it.

- This time next week I'll be on holiday. I'll **be lying** on the beach or **swimming** in the sea.
- You have no chance of getting the job. You'll **be wasting** your time if you apply.

Compare **will be doing** and **will do**:

- Don't phone between 7 and 8. We'll **be eating**.
- Let's wait for Liz to arrive and then we'll **eat**.

Compare:

- At 10 o'clock yesterday, Tina **was** in her office. She **was working**. (past continuous)
- It's 10 o'clock now. She **is** in her office. She **is working**. (present continuous)
- At 10 o'clock tomorrow, she **will be** in her office. She **will be working**. (future continuous)

C We also use **will be doing** to talk about complete actions in the future.

For example:

- The government **will be making** a statement about the crisis later today.
- Later in the programme, I'll **be talking** to the Minister of Education.
- The team's star player is injured and **won't be playing** in the game on Saturday.

When we use **it** in this way, **will be doing** = **will be doing** = **will be doing** = **will be doing**.

D I **will have done** something (future perfect) = it will be complete before a time in the future. For example:

- Sally always leaves for work at 8.30 in the morning. She **won't be** at home at 9 o'clock – she'll **have gone** to work.
- We're late. The film **will already have started** by the time we get to the cinema.

Compare:

- 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 son was born, they **had been** married for three years. (past perfect)

48 → will → Units 21-22 by then / by the time → Unit 120 The future → Appendix 3

Unit 24 Exercises

24.1 Read about Andy. Then tick (✓) the sentences which are true. In each group of sentences at least one is true.

Andy goes to work every day. He leaves home at 8 o'clock 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
 he'll be leaving the house
 he'll have left the house
 he'll be at home ✓
 he'll be having breakfast ✓

2 At 8.15
 he'll be leaving the house
 he'll have left the house
 he'll have arrived at work
 he'll be arriving at work

3 At 9.15
 he'll be working
 he'll start work
 he'll have started work
 he'll be arriving at work

4 At 12.45
 he'll have lunch
 he'll be having lunch
 he'll have finished his lunch
 he'll have started his lunch

5 At 4 o'clock
 he'll have finished work
 he'll finish work
 he'll be working
 he won't have finished work

6 At 4.45
 he'll be working
 he'll leave work
 he'll be leaving work
 he'll have left work
 he'll have arrived home

24.2 Complete the sentences. Choose from the box.

1 There's an election next week. Who **will go**, **be voting** for?
 2 I'll _____ shopping later. Can I get you anything?
 3 Emily is not well, so she _____ volleyball tomorrow.
 4 Little Emma _____ school soon. She's growing up fast.
 5 The match is on TV tonight. Will you _____ it?
 6 What _____ in your new job? The same as before?
 7 I _____ to the wedding. I'll be away on holiday.
 8 Please fasten your seat belts. The plane _____ in ten minutes.

24.3 Put the verb into the correct form, **will be (doing)** or **will have (done)**.

1 Don't phone between 7 and 8. **We'll be eating** then. (we / eat)
 2 Tomorrow afternoon we're going to play tennis from 3 o'clock until 4.30. So at 4 o'clock, _____ tennis. (we / play)
 3 Sarah will meet you at the station. _____ for you when you arrive. (she / wait)
 4 The meeting starts at 9.30 and won't last longer than an hour. You can be sure that _____ by 11 o'clock. (it / finish)
 5 Do you think _____ in the same place in ten years' time? (you / still / live)
 6 Lisa is travelling in Europe and so far she has travelled about 1,000 miles. By the end of the trip, _____ more than 3,000 miles. (she / travel)
 7 If you need to contact me, _____ at the Lion Hotel until Friday. (I / stay)
 8 Ben is on holiday and is spending his money very quickly. If he continues like this, _____ all his money before the end of his holiday. (he / spend)
 9 I'm fed up with my job. I hope _____ it much longer. (I / not / do)

Additional exercises 12-13 (pages 309-10) 49

Still not sure of the difference? Let's try these two activities to get more practice

Future continuous and future perfect | LearnEnglish

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PART 5

ACTIVITY 7: Future Perfect Continuous

The future perfect continuous, also sometimes called the future perfect progressive, is a verb tense that describes actions that will continue up until a point in the future.

We will have been working together on English grammar for over three months this July!

= The future perfect continuous can be used to predict the length of an activity. The tense looks back from the imagined finishing time in the future.

SUBJECT + WILL HAVE BEEN + PRESENT PARTICIPLE +/- OBJECT/TIME PHRASE/ ROS

7b) 🧠 Knowledge check! What's the difference between future perfect simple and future perfect continuous?

1) *By the time she arrives at the airport, he will have booked the tickets.*

VS.

2) *By the time she arrives at the airport, he will have been booking the tickets for two hours*



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7a) Activity: Complete these sentences in the future perfect continuous:

- In November, I will have _____ at my company for three years.
- At five o'clock, I will _____ for thirty minutes.
- When I turn thirty, I _____ piano for twenty years.
- By 2030, I _____.

7b) Non Action Verbs (aka. stative) DO NOT Use the Future Perfect Continuous

Remember, we covered these in the present and past workbooks! For example, to be, to seem, or to know. In the future, these verbs instead take the [future perfect](#) tense, which is formed with will + have + past participle.

Which of the following are action verbs?

Run Own Include Love Dance Resemble Understand
Believe Jump Meditate Eat Remember Own Draw
Love Dance Resemble Write Think Coordinate Swim
Read Need Explore Know Play Envy Like
Want Work Doubt Sing Hear Recognize Belong

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PART 6 - Let's make it perfect 🔥

7c) Read the following sentences in future perfect continuous and future perfect simple. Which are OK and which are incorrect ?

- On Thursday, I will have known you for a week.
- By next year, I will have been living in Budapest for a year.
- In December, I will have been having this job for a decade.
- I will have been reading forty-five books by Christmas.
- By this time tomorrow, we will have been being happy for a week
- By the time you arrive, they will have been working on the project for three days.
- Next month, she will have been studying French for six months.
- In December, I will have known you for a decade.
- By next year, I will have been knowing you for a year.
- By the time you arrive, they will have been understanding the concept for three days.
- I will have read forty-five books by Christmas.
- By this time tomorrow, we will have been travelling for eight hours.
- Next month, she will have been owning the car for five years.

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ACTIVITY 8: Reflection

Make a note of which activity was the most useful for your learning and which types were the easiest to identify.

Are there any you are not sure about? Bring it to your next lesson with me to discuss!

My recommended sites for understanding this verb tense:

- [Talking about the future | LearnEnglish](#) - Summary and exercises
- [4 Future Tenses In English And How To Use Them | Oxford House Barcelona](#)

Recommended Textbooks:

Cambridge English Grammar in Use Fifth Edition, (units 19-25)

English for Everyone Grammar Guide