

3.2 Future forms

Future Continuous

We use the Future Continuous:

- to talk about actions which will be in progress at a particular time in the future:
This time tomorrow we'll be flying to the Maldives.
- to talk about planned or routine future events, actions or situations:
I'll be going to the supermarket after work.
- to form polite questions or requests:
Will you be doing the first aid course this month?
Will you be using your car tomorrow? (because I'd like to borrow it)

Affirmative	Negative
I/You/He/ 'll She/It/ (will) sleeping. We/They be	I/You/ won't He/ (will) sleeping. She/ (will) not) It/We/ be They
Yes/No questions	Short answers
Will I/you/ he/she/it/ be sleeping? we/they	Yes, I/you/he/she/it/we/ they will. No, I/you/he/she/it/we/ they won't.
Wh- questions	Subject questions
How long will I/you/he/ she/it/ be sleeping? we/they	Who will be sleeping?

Future Perfect Simple

We use the Future Perfect Simple to talk about actions or situations which will be completed before a certain time in the future:

They **will have crossed** the border by five o'clock.

Affirmative	Negative
I/You/ 'll He/She/ (will) finished by It/We/ have 10 o'clock. They	I/You/ won't He/She/ (will) finished It/We/ (not) by 10 They have o'clock.
Yes/No questions	Short answers
Will I/you/he/ she/it/we/ have finished they by 10 o'clock?	Yes, I/you/he/she/it/we/ they will. No, I/you/he/she/it/we/ they won't.
Wh- questions	Subject questions
When will I/you/he/ she/it/we/ have finished? they	Who will have finished by 10 o'clock?

Future Perfect Continuous

We use the Future Perfect Continuous to talk about actions or states which will have been in progress for some time by a certain time in the future:

By the end of the year we **will have been living** in Toronto for eight years.

Affirmative	Negative
I/You/ have He/She/ 'll been working It/We/ (will) for They 10 hours.	I/You/ won't have been He/ (will) working for She/ (will) 10 hours. It/We/ not) They
Yes/No questions	Short answers
Will I/you/ he/she/ been it/we/ working they for 10 hours?	Yes, I/you/he/she/it/we/they will. No, I/you/he/she/it/we/they won't.
Wh- questions	Subject questions
How long will I/you/ he/she/ have it/we/ been they working? 10 hours?	Who will have been working for 10 hours?

Typical time expressions used with the Future Perfect Simple and Future Perfect Continuous are:

- by 2030/next month/next year
- by then
- by the time
- in two days/three weeks/one month's time/ten years' time

Complete the sentences with the correct future form of the verbs in brackets.

- This time next week I _____ (work) here for three years. Doesn't time fly?
- Robert can't meet us at 6 p.m. He _____ (not finish) his homework by then.
- _____ (you/read) that book by Friday? I promised to lend it to George.
- Tomorrow Magda _____ (visit) her grandfather, so we can't meet for coffee as we usually do.
- I _____ (be) couch surfing three years in a row after this summer.
- This article says we _____ (not live) in space for at least another 200 years.
- _____ (you/collect) Marge from the train station tomorrow or do I need to go?