

The Future Tenses

I. Theory.

There are a number of ways to express that something happens in the future. These are the most frequently used options.

1. The Future Tenses.

a) Form.

FUTURE SIMPLE	FUTURE CONTINUOUS
<p>I/YOU/HE/SHE/IT/WE/THEY WILL ('LL) + INFINITIVE WILL NOT (WON'T) + INFINITIVE</p> <p>I / WE SHALL ('LL) + INFINITIVE*</p>	<p>WILL BE + ING-FORM</p>
FUTURE PERFECT	FUTURE PERFECT CONTINUOUS
<p>WILL HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE</p>	<p>WILL HAVE BEEN + ING-FORM</p>

* SHALL ('LL) is used with I/we when making an OFFER or SUGGESTION.

Shall I make lunch? (offer)

Shall we go to the cinema tonight? (suggestion)

b) Use of the SIMPLE FUTURE: I WILL WORK.

- PURE FUTURE / PREDICTIONS.

I will still be alive tomorrow.

The museum will open a new exhibition next month.

The train will leave in ten minutes.

- THOUGHTS / OPINIONS / JUDGEMENTS / GUESSWORK.

I expect it will rain tomorrow.

Try this size. I am positive it will fit.

I reckon this will be a tough exercise.

SPONTANEOUS REACTIONS / INSTANT DECISIONS.

The fence is broken. I'll repair it.

I need a holiday. I'll book a flight to Jamaica this afternoon.

- WILLINGNESS / VOLITION / VOLUNTARY ACTIONS.

A: I'm really hungry.

B: I'll make some sandwiches.

A: I'm so tired. I'm about to fall asleep.

B: I'll get you some coffee.

- PROMISES / THREATS.

I will call you when I arrive. (promise)

I promise I will not tell him about the surprise party. (promise)

If you don't comply, we will be forced to take measures! (threat)

If you don't do as I say, I will have to kill you! (threat)

c) Use of the FUTURE CONTINUOUS: I WILL BE WORKING.

- AN ACTION GOING ON IN THE FUTURE.

At 3 pm he will be finishing his exam.

The concert will be going on till late at night.

This time next week, I will be driving through Italy.

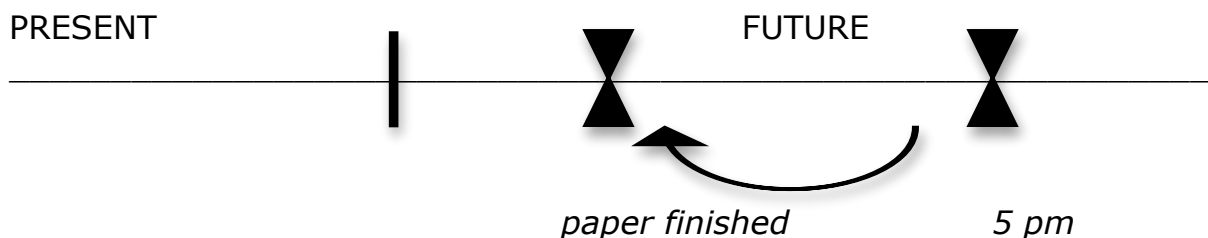
Don't phone me at seven, I will be having a bath then.

Will you be teaching the same course next year?

d) Use of the FUTURE PERFECT: I WILL HAVE WORKED.

- AN ACTION BEFORE ANOTHER ACTION IN THE FUTURE.

By 5 pm I will have finished my paper.



In three years time I will have taken my degree.

Will you have finished your paper by 8 o'clock tonight?

He will have drunk the whole bottle before you even arrive.

By tomorrow he will have been in a coma for a month.

e) Use of the FUTURE PERFECT CONTINUOUS: I WILL HAVE BEEN WORKING

- ACTION BEFORE ANOTHER ACTION IN THE FUTURE + STRESS ON THE DURATION.

In ten minutes time I will have been hanging around here for exactly two hours.

2. The Present Continuous.

a) Form: I AM WORKING.

b) Use.

- DEFINITE ARRANGEMENTS / ARRANGED FUTURE.

She's flying to Cameroon tomorrow at 5:00 am. She already has her boarding pass.

I'm leaving for Toronto tomorrow.

3. The Present Simple.

a) Form: I WORK.

b) Use.

- SCHEDULED ACTIONS / TIMETABLE FUTURE.

The plane to Moscow takes off at 7 am every morning next month.
The train leaves at 2 pm next Thursday.

4. 'Be going to'.

a) Form: I AM GOING TO WORK.

b) Use.

- INTENTIONAL FUTURE / DECISIONS MADE BEFORE THE TIME OF SPEAKING

*It's my birthday next week. I'm going to organise a party.
Next year we're going to travel to Japan for our holiday.*

- PREDICTIONS BASED ON EVIDENCE.

*Look at those clouds! It's going to rain.
Be careful with that glass of wine! You're going to spill it.*

5. 'To be about to'.

a) Form: I'M ABOUT TO start work.

b) Use.

'To be about to' = 'op het punt staan om...'

He's about to quit his job.

It's about to rain! Quick, take your umbrella!

He's about to win the race!

II. Exercises.

1.A. Which TENSE or FORM do you see here? Use letters and descriptions underneath to match with the USE for that tense or form.

1. She **will be driving** to work tomorrow. **Future Continuous + D**
2. My cousin **will fly** to Seoul next Tuesday. **Simple Future + H**
3. By tomorrow the weather **will have changed**. **Future Perfect + E**
4. I'm **about to lose** my mind! **to be about to + G**
5. I **'ll have been working** here for seven years. **Future Perfect Continuous + F**
6. I'm **meeting** Susan for drinks later on! **Present Continuous + B**
7. It looks like he's **going to give up** on that task. **be going to + C**
8. I **will have finished** all the gardening by noon. **Future Perfect + E**

A) a plan

B) a definite plan / date / meeting

C) a prediction

D) an action going on in the future

E) an action before another action

F) an action before another action + duration

G) to be about to

H) a reasonable certainty about the future

1.B. Mixed exercises: Which TENSE has been used and why?

1. You **shall do** as I tell you! → **simple future: threat**
2. I think he **will** definitely **go** for it. → **simple future: prediction**
3. He **will have told** you a million lies by the end of your romantic dinner. → **Future Perfect: action before another action**
4. We **will have been hunting down** that terrorist for over three years now. → **Future Perfect Continuous: action before another action + duration**
5. If the operation lasts till this evening, it **will have been proven** impossible to cure her. → **Future Perfect Continuous: action before another action**
6. I **will be harassing** him until he gives me an answer. → **Future Continuous: action going on in the future**
7. **Shall I prepare** us a meal? → **Simple Future: offer/suggestion**
8. We **shall have been working** non-stop for two days by this evening. → **Future Perfect Continuous: action before another action + duration**
9. I **will** probably **not be staying** out late since I have an early start tomorrow morning. → **Future Continuous: volition**

2. What ARE YOU GOING TO DO this summer? Ask your neighbour questions about their INTENTIONS / PLANS for the summer.

"Are you going to?" "Yes, I'm going to..." "No, I'm not going to..." If your neighbour asks you a stupid question, add something like: "No, silly, I'm not going to..."

to scuba dive
to ski
to paraglide
to get a student job
to travel abroad
to play computer games
to attend a festival
to collect easter eggs
to eat lots of ice-cream
to do all the dishes
to shoot some hoops (= play basketball)
to prepare grammar exercises for next year
to babysit
to write a book
to play music
to build up some muscles

to eat at McDonald's every day
to hang out with friends at the beach
to take a knitting course
to eat English breakfast
to paint your toenails
to play 'Clash of Clans' every day
to sleep long hours
to play football
to attend a barbecue
to mix cocktails
to write poetry
to go dancing
to get hammered (= very drunk)
to compete in a contest
to snapchat all day long
to learn how to arrange flowers
to shop till you drop

3. WILL or BE GOING TO?

Use WILL if you have made the decision at the time of speaking.

Use BE GOING TO if you have made the decision before the time of speaking.

1. A: We don't have any bread.
B: I know. I **am going to** get some from the shop.
2. A: We don't have any bread.
B: Really? I **will** get some from the shop then.
3. A: Why do you need to borrow my suitcase?
B: I **am going to** visit my mother in Scotland next month.
4. A: I'm really cold.
B: I **will** turn the heating on.
5. A: Are you going to John's party tonight?
B: Yes. Are you going too? I **will** give you a lift.
6. A: What are your plans after you leave university?
B: I **am going to** work in a hospital in Africa.
7. (The phone rings)
A: I **will** get it!
8. A: Are you ready to order?
B: I can't decide ... OK, I **will** have the steak, please.
9. A: Are you busy tonight? Would you like to have coffee?
B: Sorry. I **am going to** go to the library.
I've been planning to study all day.
10. A: Why are you carrying a hammer?
B: I **am going to** put up some pictures.

4. Voluntary actions. What WILL YOU DO in these circumstances?

*It's hot in here! I **will open** a window!*

Tom left his phone behind on his desk.

I will call him back/later.

God, I am so thirsty!

I'll buy you a coke.

Do you also crave for a doughnut?

Yes, I'll get one at the bakery.

I would love to go shopping in Paris!

I will book us a ticket for the Thalys.

I'm in the mood for dancing!

I will take you to a party.

My pencil has just broken.

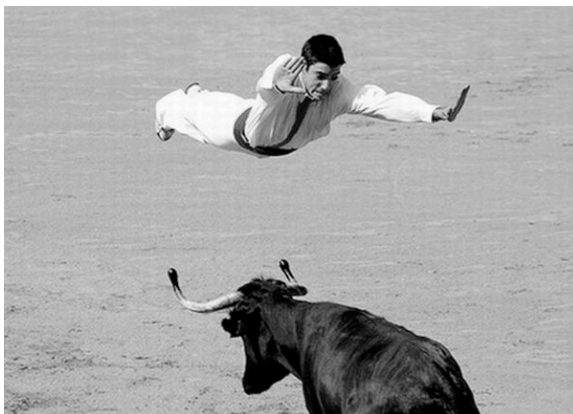
I will sharpen it for you.

I can't sleep!

I will read you a bedtime story.

5. What IS ABOUT TO happen here?

For your answers use the grid on the next page.



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8

1	The toreador is about to crash on the bull.
2	The wrestler is about to bite the other wrestler's belly.
3	The bather is about to catch a plane.
4	She is about to kick her friend.
5	The snake is about to eat the bird.
6	The child is about to get the ball into her face.
7	She's about to get soaking wet.
8	He's about to land on his face.

6. Busted!! Make PREDICTIONS about the following events. Use WILL or BE GOING TO.

**Will = based on personal judgement, opinion or intuition.
Going to = based on present evidence, more certain.**

1. Describe what you think HAS HAPPENED or IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN.
2. Make a PREDICTION about the future.

Use the grid on the next page.



1



2



3



4



5



6

1	They are about to commit adultery. Someone will ask a divorce!
2	She's about to eat a cookie. Mother will punish her.
3	She's using her mobile phone while driving. A police officer will fine her.
4	He's about to steal a bike. Someone will call the police.
5	He's too drunk to walk the white line. He will lose his driver's license.
6	The dog has stolen a cake. His owner/boss will be mad.

7. The FUTURE PERFECT.

Use the FUTURE PERFECT to describe an action before another action in the future.

1. I (leave) **will have left** by six.
2. (you / finish) **Will you have finished** the report by the deadline?
3. When (we / do) **will we have done** everything?
4. She (finish) **will have finished** her exams by then, so we can go out for dinner.
5. You (read) **will have read** the book before the next class.
6. She (not finish) **won't have finished** work by seven.
7. When (you / complete) **will you have completed** the work?
8. They (arrive) **will have arrived** by dinner time.
9. We (be) **will have been** in London for three years next week.
10. (she / get) **Will she have got** home by lunch time?

11. (you / do) **Will you have done** everything by seven?
12. We (not eat) **won't have eaten** before we come, so we'll be hungry.
13. (he / finish) **Will he have finished** his exams when we go on holiday?
14. (we / arrive) **Will we have arrived** by the time it gets dark?
15. How long (you / know) **will you have you known** your boyfriend when you get married?
16. He (not complete) **will not have completed** the project by July.
17. I (not finish) **will not have finished** the essay by the weekend.
18. Why (she / finish) **won't she have finished** the cleaning by six?
19. How long (you / be) **will you have been** in this company when you retire?
20. They (not / go) **will not have gone** at six.

8. FUTURE PERFECT or FUTURE PERFECT CONTINUOUS.

1. By 2018 we (live) **will have been living** in Madrid for 20 years.
2. He (write) **will have written** a book by the end of the year.
3. (finish / you) **Will you have finished** this novel by next week?
4. He (read) **will have been reading** this book for 15 days by the end of this week.
5. They (be) **will have been** married for 40 years by the end of this month.
6. (be / she) **Will she have been** pregnant for three months this week?
7. By the end of the month I (live) **will have been living** in this town for ten years.
8. By 9 o'clock, we (finish) **will have finished** our homework.
9. By the end of this week we (work) **will have been working** on the project for a month.

10. By July the fifth they (study) **will have been studying** English for 3 years.
11. They (leave) **will have left** the classroom by the end of the hour.
12. By 10 o'clock she (watch) **will have been watching** TV for 4 hours.
13. We (go) **will have gone** home by next week.
14. She (return) **will have returned** from the excursion by 6 o'clock.
15. They (wait) **will have been waiting** for the president for 5 hours.
16. (buy / he) **Will she have bought** the new house by October?
17. She (sleep) **will have been sleeping** for 10 hours by 11 o'clock.
18. We (look for) **will have been looking** him for 40 days by next Saturday.
19. The sun (not rise) **will not have risen** by 4 o'clock.
20. (you / do) **Will you have done** the shopping by 3 o'clock?

9. Mixed Exercises

9.A. Choose the most suitable verb form in each sentence.

- a) If you arrive late to the party, the best food is going to go / **will have gone** / will go. **(action before another action in the future)**
- b) Don't come to my home at lunch time. **I'll be watching** / I'll watch / I'll have watched my favourite television programme then. **(action going on in the future)**
- c) Be careful! The train will / **is going to** leave. **(prediction based on evidence)**
- d) Please send me a text message as soon as she **gets** / will get / will have got there. I can't wait to see her. **(scheduled action)**
- e) Can I change my appointment for this afternoon please, because I'll leave / **I'm leaving** tomorrow. **(definite arrangement)**
- f) I've just checked the flight details and the plane is going to arrive / **arrives** at 6 pm. **(timetable future)**
- g) Where **are you going to buy** / will you buy/ will have bought your new laptop? You should try the shop on the High Street. **(intentional future)**

9.B. Put the verb in brackets in the most suitable form, all sentences refer to future time.

- a) When I (see) **see** you tomorrow, I (show) **will show** you my new tattoo.
- b) After you (take) **take** a nap, you (feel) **will feel** a lot better.
- c) I'm sorry but you need to stay in your room until you (finish) **finish/have finished** your work.
- d) I (buy) **will buy/am going to buy** the cigarettes from the corner shop when it (open) **opens**.
- e) I (let) **will let** you know the second I (find out) **find out** the outcome.
- f) Before we (start) **start** decorating the room, we (have) **will have** lunch.
- g) We (wait) **will wait** in the shelter until the bus (come) **comes**.

9.C. Put the verb in brackets in the most suitable form, more than one answer may be possible.

- a) I'm very sorry Mr. Smith (not be) **won't be** back in the clinic until 6. You can leave a message for him if you like.
- b) I don't think you (have) **will have** any problems when you land in Boston.
- c) By the time we get home, the football match (start) **will have started**.
- d) In years time I (live) **will be living/will live** in a different country.
- e) When you get off the train, I (wait) **will be waiting/will wait** for you near the car park.
- f) (you / take) **Will you take/will you be taking** your children with you to Spain?
- g) This time next week I (ski) **will be skiing** in Italy!

10. Fill in the correct FUTURE TENSE: Simple Future, Future Continuous, Future Perfect or Future Perfect Continuous.

1. Catherine Zeta-Jones (act) **will have been acting** in America for more than 2 decades by the year 2020.
2. You (see) **will see/will be seeing** him tomorrow night.
3. If you should need me, I (study) **will be studying** in the library.
4. I (see) **will have seen** the movie twice by the time it comes out on video next week.
5. By the time I retire, I (write) **will have been writing** movie reviews for more than 30 years.
6. He (lend) **will lend** his pen if you ask him properly.
7. Tomorrow, I (work / still) **will still be working** on that damn assignment.
8. By tomorrow he (pack) **will have packed** his suitcase.
9. You (complete) **shall/will complete** your homework first!
10. I saw the movie *Scream* last night, but (forget) **will have forgotten** about it by tomorrow.
11. By the time the movie stops, it (rain) **will have been raining** outside for 4 hours at least.
12. At the end of the show, I (eat) **will have been eating** continuously.
13. You (miss) **will miss** the train if you don't hurry.
14. She (visit) **will have visited** Paris by the end of the year.
15. My cousin (exercise) **will have been exercising** for 2 years next week in preparation for a role in a movie.
16. Don't worry. We (not be) **will not be** late.

17. They (think) **will be thinking** about whether to go see the new movie or not for half an hour by the time it begins tonight.
18. She (discuss) **will discuss** this with her mother tonight.
19. I (watch) **will have watched** several John Travolta movies by the time I see "Saturday Night Fever".
20. If we haven't done that, we (not fulfill) **won't have fulfilled/won't fulfill** our mission.

12. Mixed exercises: Translate:

1. Hij zal gevraagd worden om deel te nemen (participate).
He will be asked to participate.
2. Ik ben nog niet helemaal wakker (awake). Ik zal wat koffie maken.
I'm not fully awake yet. I'll make some coffee.
3. Op dit tijdstip morgen zijn alle examens voorbij (to be over).
By this time tomorrow all exams will be over/will be finished.
4. Ik ben er zeker van dat die job je zal liggen (to suit).
I'm sure this job will suit you.
5. Tegen 12 uur zal hij al tien uren aan het vliegen zijn.
By 12 o' clock he will have been flying for ten hours.
6. Zeven uur komt me slecht uit (a bad time), ik heb dan een vergadering.
Seven o'clock is a bad time for me. I'll be having a meeting then/I am having a meeting then.
7. Over een paar minuten zal het brandalarm afgegaan (to go off) zijn.
In a few/couple of minutes the fire alarm will have gone off.
8. Volgende lente zullen we al drie jaar in Tokyo verblijven.
Next spring we will have been staying in Tokyo for three years.
9. Zul je hier volgend jaar nog werken?
Will you still be working here next year?
10. Ik zal nog aan het studeren zijn als je op dat tijdstip langskomt.
I will be studying when you drop by at that time.
11. Ik denk dat ze me morgen zal opbellen.
I think she will call me tomorrow.
12. Over drie jaar zullen er verkiezingen (elections) geweest zijn.
In three years time there will have been elections.
13. Niemand zal tegen die tijd nog zelf boodschappen (to run errands) doen.
By that time, nobody will be running their own errands anymore.
14. Ik zal me wreken (to seek vengeance) al is het het laatste wat ik doe!
I shall/will seek my vengeance, even if it's the last thing I do!
15. Tegen het einde van de vakantie zal ik al iedere dag een paar uren in de tuin gewerkt hebben.
By the end of the holiday, I will have been working in the garden for a few hours every day.

Key to the exercises.

EXERCISE 1.A.: Tense/Form + Use.

1. Future Continuous + D
2. Simple Future + H
3. Future Perfect + E
4. To be about to + G
5. Future Perfect Continuous + F
6. Present Continuous + B
7. Be going to + C
8. Future Perfect + E

EXERCISE 1.B.: Which tense has been use and why?

1. Simple Future (threat)
2. Simple Future (prediction)
3. Future Perfect (action before another action)
4. Future Perfect Continuous (stress on duration)
5. Future Perfect (action before another action)
6. Future Continuous (action going on in the future)
7. Simple Future (offer / suggestion)
8. Future Perfect Continuous (stress on duration)
9. Future Continuous (volition)

EXERCISE 3: Will / Be going to.

1. am going to
2. will
3. am going to
4. will
5. will
6. am going to
7. will
8. will
9. am going to
10. am going to

EXERCISE 4: Voluntary actions / Will.

1. I will call him back.
2. I'll buy you a coke!
3. Yes, I will get you one at the bakery.
4. I will book us a ticket for the Thalys.
5. I will take you to a salsa party.
6. I will sharpen it for you.
7. I will bring you some hot milk.

EXERCISE 5: To be about to.

1. The toreador is about to crash onto the bull.
2. The wrestler is about to bite the other wrestler's belly.
3. The bather is about to catch a plane.
4. She is about to kick her friend.
5. The snake is about to eat the bird.
6. The child is about to get the ball into his / her face.

7. She's about to get soaking wet.
8. He's about to land on his face.

EXERCISE 6: Busted!!

1. They are about to commit adultery. Someone will file for divorce!
2. She's about to steal a cookie. Mother will punish her.
3. She's using her mobile phone while driving a car. A police officer will give her a fine.
4. He's about to steal a bike. Someone will call the police.
5. He's too drunk to walk the white line. He will lose his driver's license.
6. The dog has stolen a cake. His boss will reprimand him.

EXERCISE 7: The Future Perfect.

1. will have left
2. Will you have finished
3. will we have done
4. will have finished
5. will have read
6. won't have finished
7. will you have completed
8. will have arrived
9. will have been
10. Will she have got

11. Will you have done
12. won't have eaten
13. Will he have finished
14. Will we have arrived
15. will you have known
16. will not have completed
17. will not have finished
18. will she have finished
19. will you have been
20. won't have gone

EXERCISE 8: The Future Perfect or Future Perfect Continuous.

1. will have been living
2. will have written
3. Will you have finished
4. will have been reading
5. will have been married
6. Will she have been
7. will have been living
8. will have finished
9. will have been working
10. will have been studying
11. will have left
12. will have been watching
13. will have gone
14. will have returned
15. will have been waiting
16. Will he have bought
17. will have been sleeping
18. will have been looking

19. will not have risen
20. will you have done

Exercise 9: Mixed Exercises.

9.A. Choose the most suitable verb form...

- a) will have gone
- b) I'll be watching
- c) is going to leave
- d) gets
- e) I'm leaving
- f) arrives
- g) are you going to buy

9.B. Put the verb in brackets in the most suitable form...

- a) see / will show
- b) take / will feel
- c) finish (have finished)
- d) will buy/am going to buy / opens
- e) will let / find out
- f) start / will have
- g) will wait/ comes

9.C. Put the verb in brackets in the most suitable form...

- a) won't be
- b) will have
- c) will have started
- d) will be living / will live
- e) will be waiting / will wait
- f) Will you take / Will you be taking
- g) will be skiing

EXERCISE 10: Mixed Exercises: Fill in the correct Future tense.

1. will have been acting
2. will see / will be seeing
3. will be studying
4. will have seen
5. will have written / will have been writing
6. will lend
7. will still be working
8. will have packed
9. will / shall complete
10. will have forgotten
11. will have been raining
12. will have been eating
13. will miss
14. will have visited
15. will have exercised / will have been exercising
16. will not be/won't be
17. will have been thinking
18. will discuss
19. will have watched
20. will not fulfill / will not have fulfilled

EXERCISE 11: Translate.

1. He will be asked to participate.
2. I'm not fully awake yet. I'll make some coffee.
3. By this time tomorrow all exams will be over / will be finished.
4. I'm sure this job will suit you.
5. By 12 o'clock he will have been flying for ten hours.
6. Seven is a bad time for me, I'll be having / I'm having a meeting then.
7. In a couple of minutes the fire alarm will have gone off.
8. Next Spring we will have been staying in Tokyo for three years.
9. Will you still be working here next year?
10. I will still be studying when you drop by at that time.
11. I think she will call me tomorrow.
12. In three years time there will have been elections.
13. By that time, nobody will be running their own errands anymore.
14. I shall / will seek my vengeance, even if it's the last thing I do!
15. By the end of the holiday, I will have been working in the garden for a couple of hours every day.