

Future Continuous

Table of Contents

2	Grammar Notes
7	Exercise 1 Complete the Sentences
8	Exercise 2 Class Survey
9	Exercise 3 Correct the Errors
10	Exercise 4 Simple Future, Future Continuous, or Simple Present
11	Exercise 5 Writing
12	Exercise 6 Find Someone Who
13	Exercise 7 Quiz
14	Answer Key

Grammar Notes

THE FUTURE CONTINUOUS

A. Function 1

The main function of the future continuous (also called *the future progressive*) is to show a continuing (long) action getting interrupted by a short future action.

Tense	Future Continuous (Main Use)
Diagram	
Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I will be eating dinner when he calls me tomorrow night. • When he calls me tomorrow night, I will be eating dinner.
Form	will + be + -ing verb
Function	Two actions will occur in the future. The first (long) action is interrupted by the second (short) action.
Time Marker	when

Note #1

When forming the future continuous in English, the independent clause uses **will + be + -ing verb** and the dependent clause takes the **simple present**. Even though the verb in the dependent clause has a simple present structure, both clauses have a future meaning. Remember that the dependent clause can come before or after the independent clause. When it comes before the independent clause, a comma is needed.

- **We will be playing rugby** when the storm hits.
- When the storm hits, **we will be playing rugby**.

Note #2

Some verbs are common as short actions, and knowing them will help you identify if a sentence needs the future continuous. These verbs include *call, ring, arrive, come, land, hit, and go out*.

- They will be studying when the bell **rings**.
- She will be sleeping when his plane **lands** tonight.



Grammar Notes cont.

A. Function 1 cont.

Note #3

The short action in a future continuous sentence can be expressed simply by a time reference instead of a full clause. If a time reference comes before the independent clause, the comma is optional because time references are very short.

- Mr. Ferguson will be collecting the tests **at 3:00 pm**.
- They will still be arguing **at noon tomorrow**.
- **Before Christmas** many people will be shopping for gifts.
- **At 11:00 pm tonight**, I will still be playing the guitar.

Note #4

Will is often contracted to *'ll* in speaking and informal writing.

- You **'ll be doing** the washing-up when I get home from work.
- When I get home from work, you **'ll be doing** the dishes.

Note #5

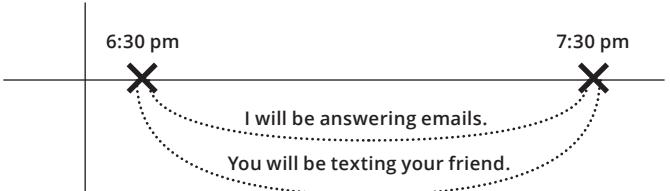
It is possible to use *be going to + be + -ing verb* to form the future continuous. Because it is such a long verb tense, *will + be + -ing verb* is more common. Note that though we can use the *present continuous* to indicate a simple future tense, we can never use it with the future continuous.

- ✗ She **is being studying** when I call her.
- ✓ She **is going to be studying** when I call her.
- ✓ She **will be studying** when I call her. (*the most common form*)

Grammar Notes cont.

B. Function 2

The secondary function of the future continuous is to emphasise that two long, continuing actions will happen at the same time.

Tense	Future Continuous (Secondary Use)
Diagram	
Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I will be answering emails and you will be texting your friend. • You'll be texting your friend, and I'll be answering emails.
Form	will + be + -ing verb
Function	Two long actions will occur at the same time in the future.
Time Markers	The adverb 'while' is possible, but the conjunction 'and' is more common.



Grammar Notes cont.

B. Function 2 cont.

Note #1

It is also possible to use the future continuous to emphasise only one long future action.

- We **will be studying** all night.
- The audience **will be begging** for more.

Note #2

Remember that non-action verbs (*be, have, feelings, states, the five senses*, etc.) almost never take a continuous form.

- ✗ She will be having a new puppy next month.
- ✓ She **will have** a new puppy next month.
- ✗ They will be liking the performance tonight.
- ✓ They **will like** the performance tonight.

Note #3

The future continuous can also be used to ask politely about someone's intentions.

- **Will he be bringing** his girlfriend to the party tonight?
- **Will you be coming** home right after work?

Note #4

Note that though two future continuous verbs are possible, it is more common to use two simple future verbs unless you really want to emphasise the long action.

- ✓ I **will be answering** emails and you **will be texting** your friend.
- ✓ I **will answer** emails and you **will text** your friend. (*more common*)

Grammar Notes cont.

C. The Simple Future Vs. The Future Continuous

The simple future is used to show a future action.
Compare the two tenses using the diagram below:

Tense	Simple Future	Future Continuous	
Diagram			
Form	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> will + base verb be going to + base verb be + -ing verb 	will + be + -ing verb	
Function	Used to show a future action.	A long future action will be interrupted by a short future action.	Two long actions will occur at the same time in the future.
Time Markers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> tomorrow the day after tomorrow next from now when 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> when 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> and while
Example	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I will call you tomorrow night. I am going to call you tomorrow night. I'm calling you tomorrow night. 	I will be sleeping when the girls get home.	I will be studying and you will be watching TV.

Exercise 1

COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

Complete the following sentences using the future continuous tense of the verbs in parentheses.

Ex. The sun will be shining when the kids wake up tomorrow morning.
(shine)

1. At 3:00 am, she _____ .
(sleep)
2. He _____ through Europe next summer.
(travel)
3. _____ you _____ the ceremony tomorrow?
(attend)
4. When we are in Brazil, we _____ with friends.
(stay)
5. Peter _____ and Sarah will be cleaning before the party.
(cook)
6. I _____ still _____ at 7:00 pm, so I'll be late for dinner.
(work)
7. It _____ when you leave the office tonight.
(rain)
8. His band _____ at the club tonight.
(perform)
9. When the bell rings, the students _____ outside.
(play)
10. They _____ dinner at 8:00 pm, so don't call then.
(eat)
11. The party _____ still _____ at 2:00 am.
(go)
12. The children _____ their homework when the babysitter arrives.
(do)

Exercise 2

CLASS SURVEY

Interview the classmates in your group. Find out what they will be doing at the specific times mentioned and complete the chart below.

Time	Classmate #1	Classmate #2	Classmate #3	You
11:00 pm tonight				
6:00 am tomorrow morning				
7:30 am tomorrow morning				
10:00 am tomorrow morning				
3:00 pm tomorrow afternoon				
6:00 pm tomorrow evening				
8:30 pm tomorrow night				
1:00 pm the day after tomorrow				
next weekend				

Exercise 3

CORRECT THE ERRORS

Find one error in each sentence and correct it on the line below.

Ex. When my friend get to my house, I will be watching TV.

When my friend gets to my house, I will be watching TV.

1. Michael will living in Australia next summer.

2. John will be playing the guitar and Lisa sings.

3. She will be sleep when I finish work.

4. My sister will being wearing a beautiful dress to the concert.

5. The band will be playing their favourite song when he propose.

6. He be reading all weekend long.

7. When you will be arriving at the restaurant, I will be waiting inside.

8. I going to Disneyland on my birthday.

9. Tomorrow morning, her dad reads the newspaper and she will be studying.

10. Wei will to be turning 14 on his next birthday.

Exercise 4

SIMPLE FUTURE, FUTURE CONTINUOUS, OR SIMPLE PRESENT

Decide if the verbs in parentheses should be in the simple future, future continuous, or simple present.

Ex. My friends will be walking to school when they see the new statue.
(walk)

1. When the lights _____, we will already be sleeping.
(go out)
2. I'm sure I _____ the book you recommended.
(love)
3. She _____ for me at the hotel when the train arrives.
(wait)
4. My son will be studying when his girlfriend _____ him.
(call)
5. He _____ the piano and I will be playing the flute.
(play)
6. My cat will be napping when I _____ home.
(get)
7. Maria _____ happy when she starts her new job.
(be)
8. My lazy colleague will be daydreaming during the meeting and the rest of us _____ hard.
(work)
9. When my friend _____ me tomorrow night, I will be watching a film.
(text)
10. We will be safe at home when the storm _____.
(hit)

Exercise 6

FIND SOMEONE WHO

Walk around the class and interview your classmates. If a classmate answers 'yes' to a question, write his or her name in the chart.

#	Find someone...	Name
1	who will be sleeping at 10:00 pm tonight.	
2	who will be daydreaming during class tomorrow.	
3	who will be doing their homework at 7:30 pm tonight.	
4	who will be playing sports next weekend.	
5	who will be watching TV tomorrow night.	
6	who will be talking to someone from their country this week.	
7	who will be going shopping after class today.	
8	who will be napping on the way to school tomorrow.	
9	who will be cooking a big dinner for the next major holiday.	
10	who will be wearing fancy clothes on the day he/she graduates from this class.	

Exercise 7

QUIZ

Circle the correct answer.

- This time next week, we _____ on the beach.
 - will sit
 - will be sitting
 - sit
- I _____ relieved when this project ends.
 - will be
 - will be being
 - am
- When the sun _____ tomorrow morning, I'll already be drinking my second cup of coffee.
 - will come up
 - will be coming up
 - comes up
- The children _____ dinner when the babysitter gets here.
 - will eat
 - will be eating
 - eat
- If we get a new car, I don't think I _____ it as much as the old one.
 - will like
 - will be liking
 - like
- The professor will be giving a lecture and the students _____ notes during class tomorrow.
 - will take
 - will be taking
 - take
- It _____ dark when I leave the gym this evening.
 - will get
 - will be getting
 - gets
- Antonio _____ help with his homework this weekend.
 - will need
 - will be needing
 - needs
- All the guests will be hiding behind the furniture when the birthday girl _____ .
 - will arrive
 - will be arriving
 - arrives
- Many people _____ in line when the box office opens on Friday morning.
 - will wait
 - will be waiting
 - wait

Answer Key

LESSON DESCRIPTION:

In this lesson, students learn how to form the future continuous and when to use it. They also learn when to use the simple future vs. the future continuous.

LEVEL: Int

TIME: 2 hours

TAGS: future progressive, future continuous, simple future, future, verb tenses, sentence patterns, clauses

Exercise 1

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. will be sleeping | 7. will be raining |
| 2. will be travelling | 8. will be performing |
| 3. Will, be attending | 9. will be playing |
| 4. will be staying | 10. will be eating |
| 5. will be cooking | 11. will, be going |
| 6. will, be working | 12. will be doing |

Exercise 2

Answers will vary. Monitor students for correct future continuous use. You may wish to write this example on the board: *What will you be doing at 11:00 pm tonight? I will be sleeping at 11:00 pm tonight.*

Exercise 3

- Michael will **be** living in Australia next summer.
- John will be playing the guitar and Lisa **will be singing**.
- She will be **sleeping** when I finish work.
- My sister will **be** wearing a beautiful dress to the concert.
- The band will be playing their favourite song when he **proposes**.
- He **will be** reading all weekend long.
- When you **arrive** at the restaurant, I will be waiting inside.
- I **will be** going to Disneyland on my birthday.
- Tomorrow morning, her dad **will be reading** the newspaper and she will be studying.
- Wei will **be** turning 14 on his next birthday.

Exercise 4

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. go out | 6. get |
| 2. will love | 7. will be |
| 3. will be waiting | 8. will be working |
| 4. calls | 9. texts |
| 5. will be playing | 10. hits |

(continued on the next page...)

Answer Key cont.

Exercise 5

Answers will vary.

Exercise 6

Answers will vary.

Exercise 7

- | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. b | 3. c | 5. a | 7. b | 9. c |
| 2. a | 4. b | 6. b | 8. a | 10. b |

EDITOR'S NOTE:

If your students need more practice with future tenses, try our Grammar Practice Worksheet lessons on:

- Simple Future
<https://ellii.com/lessons/grammar-practice-worksheets/1596-simple-future>
- Future Perfect
<https://ellii.com/lessons/grammar-practice-worksheets/1614-future-perfect>
- Future Perfect Continuous
<https://ellii.com/lessons/grammar-practice-worksheets/1972-future-perfect-progressive>
- Verb Tense Review 1 - The Simple Tenses
<https://ellii.com/lessons/grammar-practice-worksheets/1963-verb-tense-review-1-the-simple-tenses>