

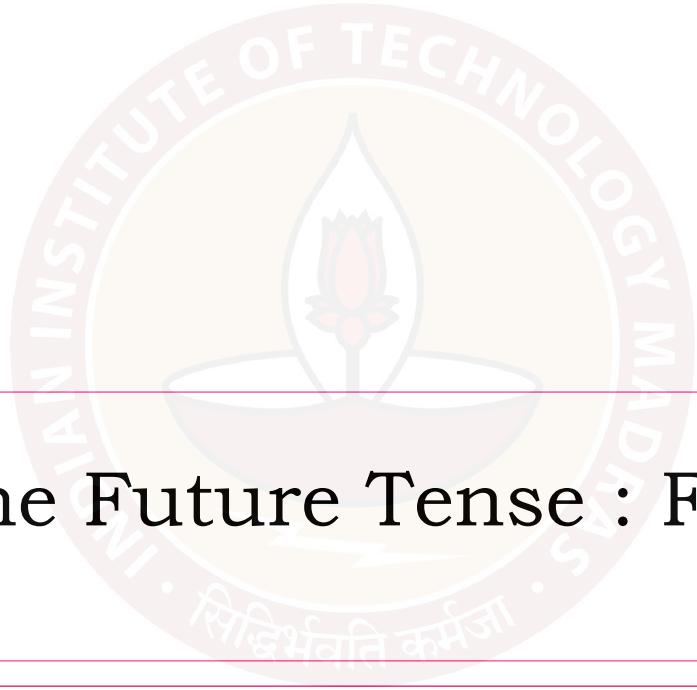
IIT Madras

BSc Degree

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The Future Tense: Forms and meanings

Lida Paul

Will and the future tense

- ▶ English employs various ways to express future time.
- ▶ The modal auxiliary verb *will* is the most often used marker of the future time reference.
- ▶ It is used in the simple future tense form.
- ▶ *Will* suggests a sense of prediction when used as a tense-forming auxiliary.

Eg. i) The train **will** arrive in 5 minutes.

- ii) I **will** cook pasta in the evening.
- iii) It **will** be cold in Delhi at this time of year.
- iv) What **will** he do if they don't come for the meeting?



Time adverbials and the future time

- ▶ The future time expressions in English sometimes come along with certain time adverbials to make the time reference explicit.
- ▶ Some of them are tomorrow, next (week, a day, a date, month, year,...) and prepositional phrases like in the morning, in the evening, etc.

Eg. i) I will be 28 in March.

ii) I'm on the bus and I'll reach Indore by four.

iii) They will board the plane in the morning.



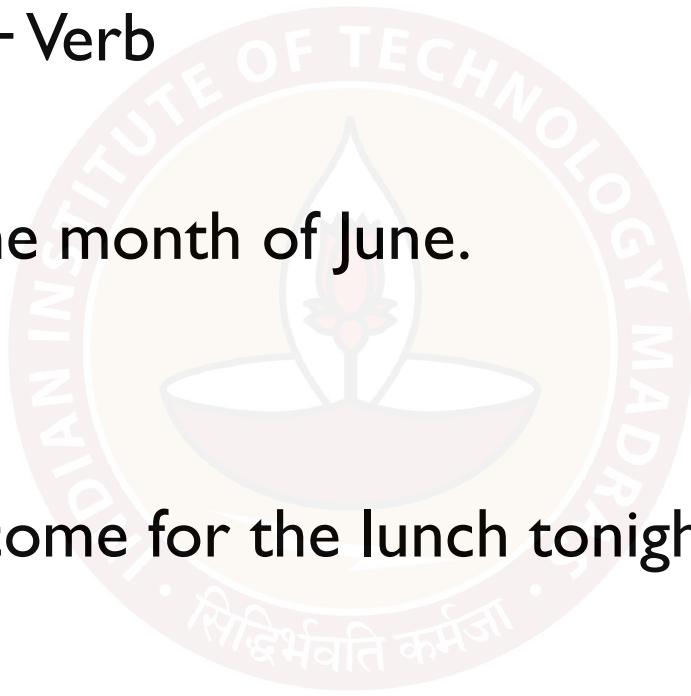
Structure of Simple Future tense

i) I will visit the mall at the weekend.

will (aux) + Verb

ii) It will rain in the month of June.

iii) They will not come for the lunch tonight.



Perfect aspect in Future tense

- ▶ The perfect aspect is used to relate one time to the other.
- ▶ It represents relational time.
- ▶ In the future perfect time, representation is of the past time within the future or the past embedded in the future time.

Eg. She *will have done* the work so the project *will be completed*.

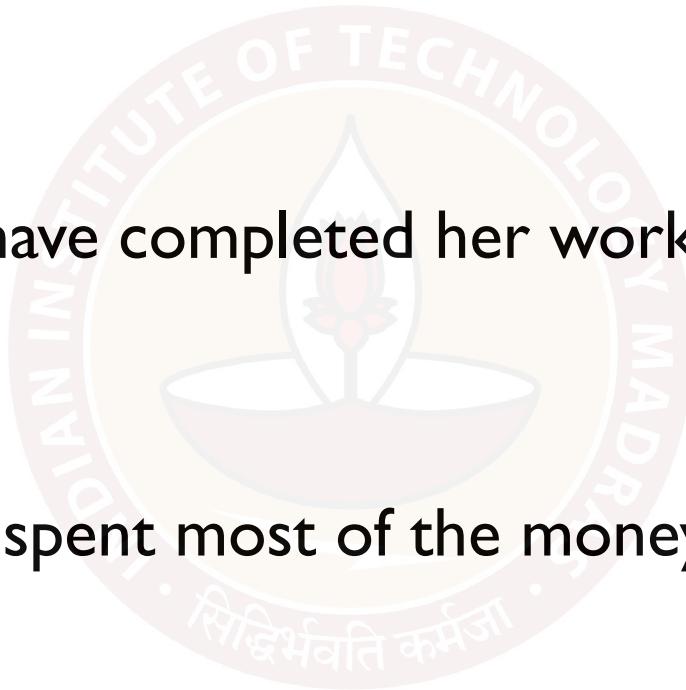


Structure of future perfect tense

- i) She will have completed her work by then.

- ii) She will not have completed her work.

- iii) We will have spent most of the money by then.



Progressive aspect in future tense

- ▶ Future progressive tense form indicates a future action will be in progress.
- i) They will be having lunch around 12:00p.m. so don't call them now. (time-tabled future)
 - ii) I'll be travelling by bus until the bike is fixed. (future routine.)
 - iii) I'll be taking my day off on Saturdays. (future habit)

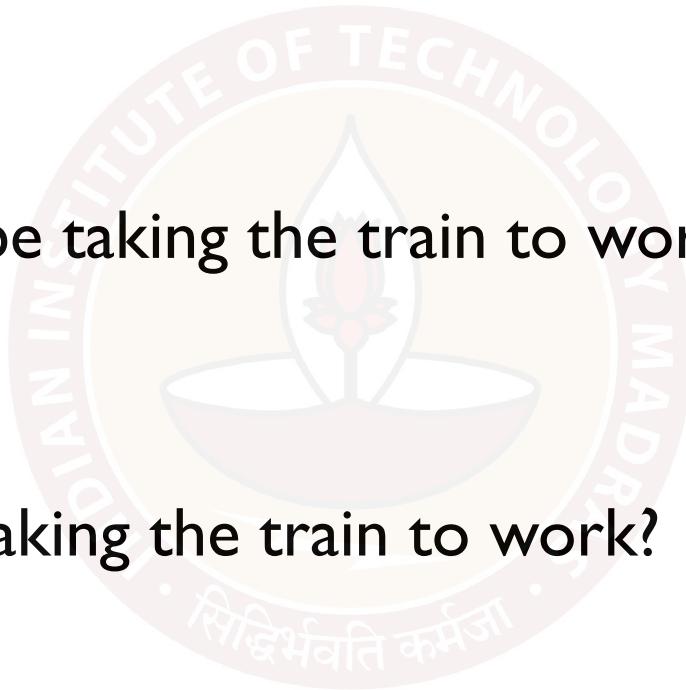


Structure of the progressive future

- i) She will be taking the train to work from now on.

- ii) She will not be taking the train to work.

- iii) Will she be taking the train to work?



Future perfect progressive tense

- ▶ The future perfect progressive is formed by the combination of future perfect with the progressive aspect.
- ▶ In terms of time, it refers to the previous future within the future.
- ▶ It can give the following meanings.
 - i) A previous future state will remain a current future state
Eg. I will have been living in Chennai for over ten years.
 - ii) Future ongoing action will still be occurring
Eg. I will have been performing in the theatre group for over a year.



Continued.....

iii) A future series of events will go on

Eg. She will have been visiting him for years by then.

iv) A future long-lasting action will continue

Eg. I will have been sitting here for all time of the day.



Structure of future perfect progressive

- i) She will have been performing in the group for years by then.
- ii) She will not have been working there for so long.
- iii) Will they have been doing that work?

