

The future in the past

We use the future in the past to talk about future events from a point of view in the past.

As with other future expressions, the form that we use depends on the use:

For **predictions in the past**, we use *would* + infinitive or *was/were going to* + infinitive.

*There was no point in asking him for help. He **would say** no.
She didn't take an umbrella because **it wasn't going to rain**.*

For **plans and intentions in the past**, we use *was/were going to* + infinitive.

*I **was going to join** them at the party, but I felt sick, so I stayed home.*

For **arrangements made in the past**, we use past continuous.

*It was a Sunday in June, and **we were meeting** at ten o'clock.*

Tip The future events may or may not actually happen.

*He **was always going to become** an actor, so I wasn't surprised when he got his first movie role.*

*He **was always going to become** an actor, so I was very surprised when he chose to be a teacher.*

Future tenses with will

We use the **future simple** for actions that we predict, promise, or decide will happen in the future.

*I'll **phone** him tomorrow.*



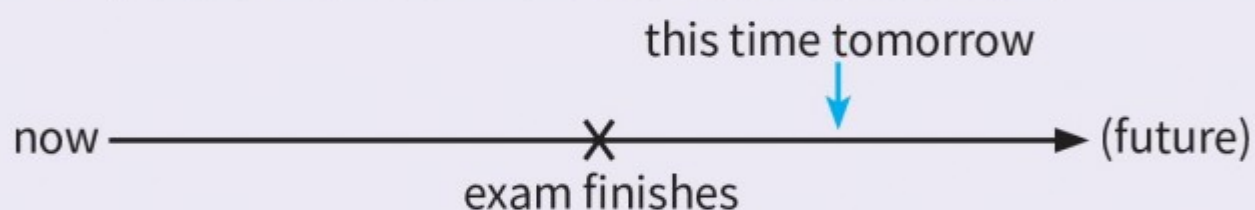
We use the **future continuous** for actions that we predict will be in progress at or around a time in the future.

*At eight o'clock, I'll still **be doing** my homework.*



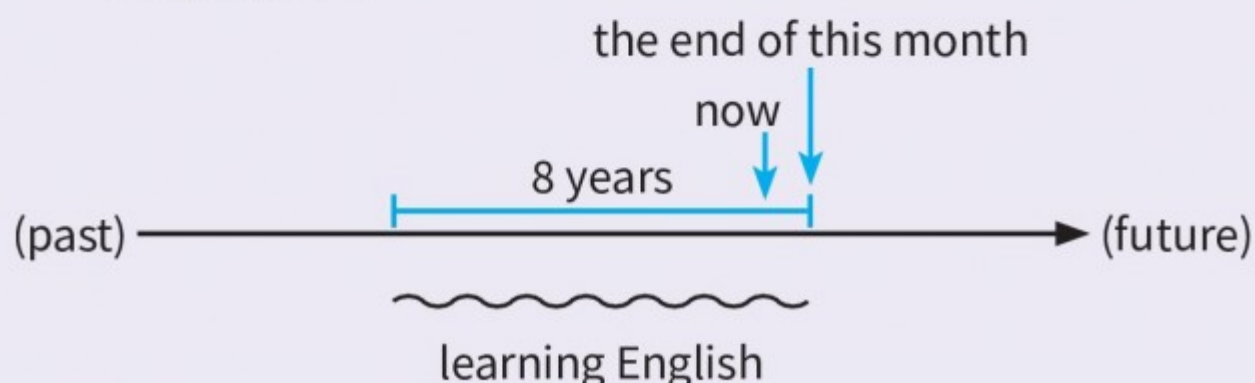
We use the **future perfect** for actions that we predict will be finished by a time in the future.

*My exam **will have finished** by this time tomorrow.*



We use the **future perfect continuous** for actions that we predict will continue until a time in the future, when we want to emphasize the length of time.

*By the end of this month, I'll **have been learning** English for eight years.*



We form the future perfect continuous like this:

Affirmative (+) and negative (-)

I/you/he/she/it/we/they **will ('ll) have been walking**
I/you/he/she/it/we/they **will not (won't) have been walking**

Questions and short answers

Will I/you/he/she/it/we/they **have been walking**?

Yes, I/you/he/she/it/we/they **will**.

No, I/you/he/she/it/we/they **won't**.

Tip We often use *this time tomorrow / next week / next year* with the future continuous.

***This time next week**, I'll be serving tea at the cafe.*

We often use *by* with future perfect tenses.

***By 2:00 p.m.**, I'll have earned \$30.*

***By 4:00 p.m.**, I'll have been working for six hours.*