Will be doing and will have done

A

Study this example situation:

These people are standing in a queue to get into the cinema.

now

Half an hour from now, the cinema will be full. Everyone **will be watching** the film.

half an hour from now

Three hours from now, the cinema will be empty. The film **will have finished**. Everyone **will have gone** home.

three hours from now

B

I **will be doing** something *(future continuous)* = I will be in the middle of doing it:
- ○ This time next week I'll be on holiday. I**'ll be lying** on the beach or **swimming** in the sea.
- ○ You have no chance of getting the job. You**'ll be wasting** your time if you apply for it.

Compare **will be** (do)**ing** and **will** (do):
- ○ Don't phone between 7 and 8. We**'ll be having** dinner.
- ○ Let's wait for Liz to arrive and then we**'ll have** dinner.

Compare **will be -ing** with other continuous forms:
- ○ At 10 o'clock yesterday, Sally **was** in her office. She **was working**. *(past)*
  It's 10 o'clock now. She **is** in her office. She **is working**. *(present)*
  At 10 o'clock tomorrow, she **will be** in her office. She **will be working**.

C

We also use **will be -ing** to talk about complete actions in the future. For example:
- ○ The government **will be making** a statement about the crisis later today.
- ○ **Will** you **be going** away this summer?
- ○ Later in the programme, I**'ll be talking** to the Minister of Education ...
- ○ Our best player is injured and **won't be playing** in the game on Saturday.

Later in the programme **I'll be talking** to ...

In these examples **will be -ing** is similar to **(be) going to** ... .

D

We use **will have (done)** *(future perfect)* to say that something will already be complete before a time in the future. For example:
- ○ Sally always leaves for work at 8.30 in the morning. She won't be at home at 9 o'clock – she**'ll have gone** to work.
- ○ We're late. The film **will** already **have started** by the time we get to the cinema.

Compare **will have** (done) with other perfect forms:
- ○ Ted and Amy **have been** married for 24 years. *(present perfect)*
  Next year they **will have been** married for 25 years.
  When their son was born, they **had been** married for three years. *(past perfect)*

Will ➔ Units 21–22   **By then / by the time** ➔ Unit 120   The future ➔ Appendix 3