

Grammar Reference

Future perfect continuous

Contrasted with future perfect

Meaning and use

We use the **future perfect** and the **future perfect continuous** tenses to talk about a future event or situation that will have happened or will have been going on for a period of time at some point in the future.

*By next March, we **will have been married** for three years.* (future perfect)

*Next March, I **will have been working** here for six months.* (future perfect continuous)

Future perfect

We use the **future perfect** to talk about events that will **have happened** or **been completed** by a particular time. These are usually plans or predictions.

*This time next year, I'll **have finished** my course.*

***Will you have finished** the report by this afternoon?*

Future perfect continuous

We use the **future perfect continuous** to talk about an on-going event or situation that will still be in progress at a particular time. It is often used with a **for** time phrase to say how long the activity will have been in progress for. In informal speaking and writing, you can leave out **for**.

*On July 2nd I **will have been living** in Dubai **for six months**.*

*By the time the bus gets here, **we'll have been waiting (for) over an hour**.*

Sometimes you can use either the future perfect or the future perfect continuous. We use the future perfect continuous when we want to emphasise the continuous nature of an action.

*In June I'll **have worked** for this company for two years.*

*In June I'll **have been working** for this company for two years.*

We can use the future perfect continuous to show cause and effect in the future.

He'll be tired when he gets back because **he'll have been playing** tennis all afternoon.

Take note: time phrases with by

Both the future perfect and the future perfect continuous are used with time phrases when making predictions. These often begin with **by** or **in**, for example **by the summer**, **by the end of the week**, **(by) this time next week/month/year**.

***By this time next year**, house prices **will have doubled** in the city.*

***In January**, I'll **have been travelling** for three months.*

Take note: present simple in time phrases with future perfect and future perfect continuous

If the time phrase begins with **when** or **by the time (that)**, then the verb that follows in the time phrase is in the **present simple**, *not* the future simple.

WRONG: *Is he on his way? **By the time he will get** here, the party will have finished!*

CORRECT: *Is he on his way? **By the time he gets** here, the party will have finished!*

WRONG: ***When you will come** in the summer, we'll have been living in this house for two years!*

CORRECT: *When you **come** in the summer, we'll have been living in this house for two years!*

Take note: future perfect and future perfect continuous for assumption

We can use both the future perfect and the future perfect continuous to say what we **believe or imagine** has/hasn't happened or has/hasn't been happening.

*They **won't have arrived** yet. They only left twenty minutes ago.*

*Sam didn't come home last night. **He'll have been working** all night to get his report finished in time.*

Form

Future perfect positive

subject + will + have + past participle of main verb

We'll have sold the house by Christmas, I'm sure.

Future perfect negative

subject + won't + have + past participle of main verb

Natalie won't have caught the train. She left the house too late.

Question

will / won't + subject + have + past participle of main verb

Will they have heard the news do you think?

Future perfect continuous positive

subject + will + have + been + present participle of main verb

She'll have been travelling all day.

Future perfect continuous negative

subject + won't + have + been + present participle of main ver

They won't have been watching the final. They went out.

Question

will / won't + subject + have + been + present participle of main verb

Will she have been working there long when they relocate?

