**Future Tense – Reading Material**

**Overview:**

Have you heard the quote by Martin Ducavne, " Past is past and we must live the present to survive the future". I'm sure you are able to relate to this quote.

There is no doubt that you are here on a mission to survive the future.

The interesting thing about the Future Tense is, it also uses words other than 'will', to imply future action.

**Objectives:**

This reading material is designed to help you:

* Understand and learn how other tenses also contribute to a future time reference.
* Learn the different future forms and how to apply them effectively.

**Future Tense**

Futurity in English is expressed either by using words that imply future action ("I go to Berlin next week") or by employing an auxiliary construction combined with the main verb which represents the true action of the sentence.

The most common auxiliary verbs used to express futurity are "will", "can", "should", "may",

and "must".

[May and might](http://www.englishtenses.com/might_and_may)

Of these, "will" is the most neutral and it is the most commonly used:

 [Simple Future](http://www.englishtenses.com/tenses/simple_future)

 [Future Continuous](http://www.englishtenses.com/tenses/future_continuous)

 [Future Perfect](http://www.englishtenses.com/tenses/future_perfect)

 [Future Perfect Continuous](http://www.englishtenses.com/tenses/future_perfect_cont)

Apart from that, we can also use "going to":

[Going to](http://www.englishtenses.com/page/going_to)

This is usually a little confusing for English learners but we can also use some of the present tenses to talk about the future:

 [Present Simple](http://www.englishtenses.com/tenses/present_simple)

 [Present Continuous](http://www.englishtenses.com/tenses/present_continuous)

**Simple Future**

Basic Form

Subject + auxiliary verb (will) + main verb

Examples:

He will leave Will she ask? They won’t see Usage:

The simple future refers to a time later than now, and expresses facts or certainty. In this case there is no 'attitude'.

The simple future is used:

 to predict a future event: It ***will rain*** tomorrow.

 (with ***I/we***) to express a spontaneous decision:

***I'll pay*** for the tickets by credit card.

 to express willingness:

***I'll do*** the washing-up. ***He'll carry*** your bag for you.

 (in the negative form) to express unwillingness: The baby ***won't eat*** his soup.

I ***won't leave*** until I've seen the manager!

 (with ***I*** in the interrogative form) to make an offer:

***Shall I open*** the window?

 (with ***we*** in the interrogative form) to make a suggestion:

***Shall we go*** to the cinema tonight?

 (with ***I*** in the interrogative form) to ask for advice or instructions: What ***shall I tell*** the boss about this money?

 (with ***you***) to give orders:

***You will do*** exactly as I say.

 ((with ***you***) to give an invitation:

***Will you come*** to the dance with me? ***Will you marry*** me?

**NOTE:** In modern English ***will*** is preferred to ***shall*.**

***Shall*** is mainly used with ***I*** and ***we*** to make an offer or suggestion (see examples (e) and (f)

above, or to ask for advice (example (g) above).

With the other persons (*you, he, she, they)* ***shall*** is only used in literary or poetic situations,

Example:

"*With rings on her fingers and bells on her toes,* ***She shall have*** *music wherever she goes."*

**Future Continuous**

Basic form

Subject + WILL + BE + Verb (continuous form)

Examples:

Tomorrow at this time, I will be taking my English langauge exam.

Ben won't be eating dinner now. He usually eats it around noon! Will you be coming to the party tonight?

Usage: to indicate that we will be in the middle of doing something in a specified time in the future. There are also two other uses, listed below:

Good to know

If you want to learn about somebody's intentions, you should always use the Future Continuous rather than the Present Simple. Using the Future Simple implies that you want to influence somebody's decision. Questions become much more objective if formed in the Future Continuous.

**Compare**:

 Will you come home? (= I want you to come home)

 Will you be coming home? (= I just want to know)

1. [Future actions in progress](http://www.englishtenses.com/tenses/future_continuous#use1)

2. [Guesses about the present or the future](http://www.englishtenses.com/tenses/future_continuous#use2)

3. [Polite questions about somebody's intention](http://www.englishtenses.com/tenses/future_continuous#use3)

**Use 1: Future actions in progress**

The first use of the Future Continuous is to express future action in progress.

 In an hour, I will be sitting in front of my TV.

 In the evening, I will be baking a birthday cake.

**Use 2: Guesses**

Use this tense also to make guesses about something in the present or future.

 He won't be coming any time soon. He is still at the office.

 Beatrice will be getting married very soon.

**Use 3: Questions**

And the last use of the tense is to make polite questions about something or somebody.

 Will you be coming home before or after 10 PM?

 Will you be goingto the supermarket? I have something to buy.

Form

Contracted forms (more) Important

The Future Perfect appears in two forms: "will" form and "going to" form which can be used interchangably.

Example:

"She will have finished" means "she is going to have finished"

**Declarative Sentences**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Subject** | **+** | **Auxiliary verb** | **+** | **Auxiliary verb** | **+** | **Verb + ing** |
| e.g. *I*/*a*  *dog*etc. | *will* | *Be* | e.g.*working*/*going*/*making* |

 She'll be having a bath when I'm back home. (Use 1)

 Tomorrow at nine, I will be hosing off (=washing with a hose) my car. (Use 1)

 This time next week,I am going to be throwing a party. (Use 1)

 I'll be watching TV when my mother arrives. (Use 1)

 They will be geting home just about now. (Use 2)

Notice

Like any of the Future Tenses, Future Continuous cannot be used in sentences beginning with: while, when,before, by the time, if, etc.

By the time, you will be finishing your painting.

**Questions**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Auxiliary**  **verb** | **+** | **Subject** | **+** | **Auxiliary**  **verb** | **+** | **Verb + ing** | ? |
| will | I/you/we  etc. | Be | dancing / taking |

 Is she going to be cooking when we knock at the door? (Use 1)

 Will Mark be playing football at 6 p.m.? (Use 1)

 Will you be using the screwdriver? (Use 3)

**Negative Sentences**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Subject** | **+** | **Auxiliary**  **verb** | **+** | **Auxiliary**  **verb** | **+** | **Verb + ing** |
| e.g. *I*/*a*  *dog*etc. | *will not* | *Be* | e.g.*working*/*going*/*making* |

 We won't be having supper tomorrow before 8 o'clock. (Use 1)

 I am not going to be learning English tomorrow at this time. (Use 1)

 John won't be sleeping now (= I think John isn't sleeping now) (Use 2)

**Future Perfect**

Basic form

Subject + WILL HAVE + Verb (past participle form)

Examples:

 I will have graduated from [UNIVERSITY](http://www.englishtenses.com/tenses/future_perfect) by May.

 Patrick will have lived in Hong Kong for 20 years by the next month.

 The train will have left by now.

Usage : to talk about actions that will be finished before some point in the future. We also use this tense to express situations that will last for a specified period of time at a definite moment in the future. The last use is to express certainty that an action was completed.

1. [Completion before a specified point in the future](http://www.englishtenses.com/tenses/future_perfect#use1)

2. [Actions or situations that will last in the future (for a specified time)](http://www.englishtenses.com/tenses/future_perfect#use2)

3. [Certainty that an action was completed](http://www.englishtenses.com/tenses/future_perfect#use3)

**Use 1: Completion before a specified point in the future**

The first use of this tense is to talk about future actions that will be finished before some specified point in the future.

 Before they come, we will have cleaned up the house.

 John will have eaten the whole cake, by the time the birthday party starts!

**Use 2: Duration in the Future**

Another use of this tense is to talk about actions will last after a given point in the future.

 By the next year, I will have known Monica for 30 years.

 Patrick will have lived in Hong Kong for 20 years by 2012.

Common Time Expressions

Time expressions that are commonly used with the Future Perfect:

• By

• By the time

• Before

• By tomorrow/7 o'clock/next month

• Until/till

**Use 3: Certainty About the Near Past**

The last use is to express conviction that something happened in the near past.

 The train will have left by now. We have to look for another way to get there. (I'm sure the train has left)

 The guests will have arrived at [THE HOTEL](http://www.englishtenses.com/tenses/future_perfect) by now. (I'm sure the guests have arrived at the hotel)

**Form**

Contracted forms (more) WILL = 'LL

Example: She'll have finished = she will have finished

WILL + NOT = WON'T

Example: She won't have finished = she will not have finished

Important

The Future Perfect appears in two forms: "will" form and "going to" form which can be used interchangably.

Example:

"She will have finished" means "she is going to have finished"

**Positive Sentences**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Subject** | **+** | **Auxiliary verb** | **+** | **Auxiliary verb** | **+** | **Past participle** |
| e.g. *I*/*a*  *dog* etc. | *will* | *have* | e.g.*eaten*/*given*/*gone*etc. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Examples** | | **Use** |
|  | I will have retired by the end of this year. | (Use 1) |
|  | I read 40 pages a day. If I keep up the pace, I will have read the book by  Tuesday. | (Use 1) |

**Questions**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Auxiliary**  **verb** | **+** | **Subject** | **+** | **Auxiliary**  **verb** | **+** | **Past participle** |
| *will* | e.g. *I*/*a*  *dog* etc. | *have* | e.g.*eaten*/*given*/*gone*etc. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Examples** | | **Use** |
|  | Will they have graduated from Cambridge by July 2009? | (Use 1) |
|  | Will I have retired by the end of the year? | (Use 1) |
|  | Will you have bought a new processor by the end of this week? | (Use 1) |

**Negative Sentences**







|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Subject** | **+** | **Auxiliary verb + not** | **+** | **Auxiliary verb** | **+** | **Past participle** |
| e.g. *I*/*a dog* etc. | *will not* | *have* | e.g.*eaten*/*given*/*gone*etc. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Examples** | | **Use** |
|  | They **won't have graduated** from from Cambridge by July 2009. | (Use 1) |
|  | My uncle won't have retired by the end of the year. | (Use 1) |

**Future Perfect in Reported Speech**





If you relate sentences in the [Future Perfect](http://www.englishtenses.com/tenses/future_perfect), you should first replace "will" with "would": Consider these examples:

 I said: "I **will** have arrived..."

 b) Jane said: "I **will** have recorded..."

In reported speech, these sentences become:

 I said I **would** have arrived...

 Jane said she **would** have recorded

Apart from that, there are some changes in time and place words.

 She said: "I will have returned from the US **by the end of this month**"

 He said: "My car will have been repaired **by the next day**".

These sentences in reported speech become:

 She said she would have returned from the US **by the of that month**

 He said that his car would have been repaired **by the following day** (or by the day after).

**Future Perfect Continuous**

Basic form

Subject + WILL HAVE BEEN + Verb (past participle form)

Examples:

 By the next year, I will have been working as a teacher for 30 years.

 We will be making a rest stop in half an hour, because you will have been driving the [CAR FOR](http://www.englishtenses.com/tenses/future_perfect_continuous) 6 hours by then.

Usage: to express situations that will last for a specified period of time at a definite moment in the future. We also use this tense to express certainty about the cause of some future situation.

 [Duration at a definite moment in the future](http://www.englishtenses.com/tenses/future_perfect_continuous" \l "use1)

 [Cause of a future situation](http://www.englishtenses.com/tenses/future_perfect_continuous" \l "use2)

**USE 1: Duration**

We use this tense to express situations that will last for a specified period of time at a definite moment in the future. It is important that we expect these situations to last longer.

 Before they come, we will have been cleaning the house for 5 hours.

 By the next year, Ben and his wife will have been living together for 50 years.

 By the next month, I **will have been saving** money for a new house for 4 years

**Common Time Expressions**

Time expressions that are commonly used with the Future Perfect Continuous:

 By tomorrow / 8 o'clock

 This year / month / week

 Next year / month / week

**USE 2: Cause**

English speakers also use this tense when they want to express certainty about the cause of some future situation.

 By this time, he will have been working for 12 hours, so he will be very tired.

 We will be making a rest stop in half an hour, because you will have been driving the car for 6 hours by then.







**Form**

**Contracted forms (more) Positive Sentences**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Subject** | **+** | **Auxiliary verb** | **+** | **Auxiliary verb** | **+** | **Auxiliary verb** | **+** | **Verb + ing** |
| e.g. *I*/*a*  *dog* etc. | *will* | *have* | *been* | e.g.*eating*/*giving*/*going*etc. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Examples** | | **Use** |
|  | We will have been driving 6 hours by the time we get home. | (Use 1) |
|  | In the summer Mike will have been tryingto find a new job for five  months. | (Use 1) |
|  | Jane will be very tired when she comes home, because she will have  been flyingover 24 hours. | (Use 1) |
|  | My father and I will have been breedingsheep for 20 years tomorrow. | (Use 1) |
|  | By the year 2020, linguists will have been studying and defining the Indo- European language family for more than 200 years. | (Use 1) |

Note







If duration of an activity (e.g. "since April", "for three hours") is unknown then the Future

Continuous should be used instead of the Perfect Form. Example:

• I will be taking a bath.

• I will have been taking a bath.

**Negative Sentences**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Subject** | **+** | **Auxiliary**  **verb** | **+** | **Auxiliary**  **verb** | **+** | **Auxiliary**  **verb** | **+** | **Verb + ing** |
| e.g. *I*/*a dog* etc. | *will not* | *have* | *been* | e.g.*eating*/*giving*/*going*etc. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Examples** | | **Use** |
|  | She won't have been writing the book for four months by  the end of October. | (Use 1) |

**Note**

**Negative sentences** sound rather unnatural. This is probably because the answer to a question like, "Will she have been teaching for 30 years this year?", would simply be, "No, I don't think so".

**Questions**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Auxiliary**  **verb** | **+** | **Subject** | **+** | **Auxiliary**  **verb** | **+** | **Auxiliary**  **verb** | **+** | **Verb + ing** |
| *will* | e.g. *I*/*a dog* etc. | *have* | *been* | e.g.*eating*/*giving*/*going*etc. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Examples** | | **Use** |
|  | Will he have been writing the composition for a month by the  end of February? | (Use 1) |

Good to know



Questions beginning with "how long" are more common.

• How long will you have been learning German this year?

• How long will you have been trying to get your driving license this week? I hope you'll finally make it!

**Future Forms**

Listed below are examples, uses and formation of Future Forms.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Examples** | **Usage** |
| **Will Verb (base**  **form)**  It will snow tomorrow.  She won't win the  election. | Used for predictions |
| **Will Verb (base**  **form)**  The concert will begin at 8 o'clock. When will the train leave? | Used for scheduled events |
| **Will Verb (base** | Used for promises |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **form)**  Will you marry me?  I'll help you with your homework after class |  |
| **Will Verb (base**  **form)**  I'll make you a sandwich.  They'll help you if you want. | Used for offers |
| **Will Verb (base form)**  He will telephone as soon as he arrives. Will you visit me when you come next week? | Used in combination with time clauses (as soon as, when, before, after) |
| **Be going to Verb**  **(base form)**  Frank is going to study Medicine. Where are they going to stay when they come?  She isn't going to buy the new house after all. | The future with 'going to' is used to express planned events or  intentions. These events or intentions are decided on *before* the moment of speaking.  **NOTE**  'Going to' or '-ing' are often both correct for planed events. 'Going to' should be used for distant future intentions (example: He's going to study Law) |
| **Be going to Verb**  **(base form)**  Oh no! Look at those clouds. It's going to rain.  Be careful! You're going to drop those dishes! | Used for future predictions based on physical (usually visual)  evidence. |
| **Present Continuous**  **(be '-ing')**  He's coming tomorrow afternoon. What are we having for dinner?  I'm not seeing the | Used for planned or personally scheduled events. Usually used with  principle verbs such as: come, go, begin, start, finish, have, etc.  **NOTE**  'Going to' or '-ing' are often both correct for planed events. 'Going to' should be used for distant future intentions (example: He's going to study Law) |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| I  You He She It We You  They | will ('ll) help you immediately.  won't leave soon. |
| Will | it rain tomorrow? |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| doctor until Friday. |  |
| **Simple Present**  The class begins at  11.30.  The plane leaves at 6 o'clock. | Used for scheduled public events such as train and plane schedules, course schedules, etc. |
| **Common future time**  **expressions include:** | next (week, month, year), tomorrow, in X's time (amount of time,  i.e. two week's time), in year, time clauses (when, as soon as, before, after) simple present (example: I will telephone as soon as I arrive.) soon, later |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Structure** | | | |
| **Future with Will**  **S will verb (base form) *positve***  **S will not (won't) verb (base form) *negative***  **will S verb (base form) *question*** | | | |
| **Future with 'going to'**  **Conjugate the helping verb "be" 'going to' verb (base form).**  I'm going to (I am) work this evening. You're going to (You are)  He's going to (He is) She's going to (She is) It's going to (It is)  We're going to (We are)  You're going to (You are) They're going to (They are) | | | |
| **Conjugate the helping verb "be" not going to verb (base form)** | | | |
|  | I'm not going to (I am not)  You aren't going to (You are not) He isn't going to (He is not)  She isn't going to (She is not) | come this evening. |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | It isn't going to (It is not)  We aren't going to (We are not) You aren't going to (You are not) They aren't going to (They are not) | | |  |  |
|  | | | | | |
| **Question word conjugate the helping verb 'be' subject going to verb (base form)**  What am I going to do tomorrow?  are you going to is he going to  is she going to  is it going toare we going to are you going to  are they going to | | | | | |
| **Future with '-ing' (present continuous)**  **Conjugate the helping verb "be" and verb -ing.**  I'm (I am) working next week. You're (You are)  He's (He is) She's (She is) It's (It is)  We're (We are) You're (You are) They're (They are) | | | | | |
| **Conjugate the helping verb "be" not verb -ing.**  I'm not (I am not) coming this evening. You aren't (You are not)  He isn't (He is not) She isn't (She is not) It isn't (It is not)  We aren't (We are not) You aren't (You are not) They aren't (They are not) | | | | | |
| **Question word conjugate the helping verb 'be' subject verb -ing** | | | | | |
|  | What | am I  are you is he  is she  is it are we are you  are they | doing this afternoon? | |  |

**Future with Simple Present**

**In the positive form add an 's' to the base form of the 3rd person singular. If the verb ends in -y preceded by a consonant, change the -y to -ies.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| I You We They | arrive | at noon. |
| He She It | arrives | at noon. |

**Conjugate the helping verb 'do' not (don't and doesn't) the base form of the verb to make negatives.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| I  You We They | don't leave | at noon. |
| He  She  It | doesn't leave | at noon. |

**Conjugate the helping verb 'do' (do or does) the base form of the verb in question forms.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Do | I  You We They | leave at noon? |
| Does | He  She  It | leave at noon? |