

# The future perfect and the future continuous

GRAMMAR

LEVEL  
Intermediate

NUMBER  
B2\_1032G\_EN

LANGUAGE  
English





## Goals

- Can form the future perfect simple and use it to talk about when I will have completed future activities.
- Can use the future continuous to talk about what I will be doing in the future.



Talking about the **future** won't always be simple.

In this lesson we're going to learn some new ways to express **future forms**.



## Preview and warm-up

- In this lesson you are going to learn how to use the **future perfect** and the **future continuous**.



By the end of this lesson, I **will have learnt** to use more future tenses.



## The future continuous

- The first way we use the **future continuous** is to talk about an **action** which will be **in progress** at a **certain time in the future**.
- The structure of the future continuous is **will be + -ing**.

This time tomorrow I will be exercising.

In 20 years' time, we will probably be working until we are 80.

At 4 p.m. this afternoon, I'll be sitting in a meeting.

What will you be doing at 10 a.m. tomorrow?

I won't be working at this time on Sunday.





## The future continuous

- We also use the **future continuous** to talk about things which will happen in the **normal course of events**.

- **I'll be seeing** John at dinner so I'll give him your message.
- Sue **will be passing** the office after work so she can pick you up.
- **They'll be seeing** the Head of HR on Friday so they can talk to her about your problem then.





## The future continuous

- We also use the **future continuous** to **ask politely** or **tentatively** about the future.

**Will** your boss **be having** a meeting with Gordon in London?

**Will** they **be using** the meeting room this afternoon?

**Will** you **be seeing** James later?

**Will** you **be using** the computer this afternoon?

**Will** she **be coming** to dinner with you?

**Will** you **be needing** anything else?



## The future continuous

- We can also use the **future continuous** to talk about an action which we **assume is in progress** in the **present**.



Don't play loud music outside that room. Your colleague **will probably still be working** in there.





## Fill in the gaps

These predictions refer to the year 2050.  
Fill in the gaps with the correct verb in the future continuous.

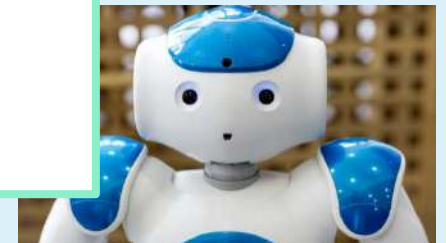
work

live

retire

do

1. Three quarters of the population of the world \_\_\_\_\_ in large cities.
2. Robots \_\_\_\_\_ lots of our jobs, including healthcare and customer service work.
3. 50% of people \_\_\_\_\_ from home rather than going to the office every day.
4. People \_\_\_\_\_ later because our life expectancy will be longer.





## Speaking

Now talk to your teacher about the predictions on the previous page.  
Which ones do you think will come true?





## Fill in the gaps with the verb in the future continuous

1. \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_  
[watch] TV this evening?



No I \_\_\_\_\_ [work] on my  
presentation all evening.

2. Can I phone the client now or do  
you think she \_\_\_\_\_  
[eat]?



She \_\_\_\_\_ probably  
\_\_\_\_\_ [work]. She normally  
takes her lunch break quite late.

3. What time does your plane land?



3 a.m. \_\_\_\_\_ you  
\_\_\_\_\_ [pick] me up from  
the airport?

4. \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_  
[use] your computer in the next  
few minutes?



No, you can use it.

5. Why are you buying all those  
cakes?



It's Sarah's birthday so she  
\_\_\_\_\_ [expect] some sort  
of gift.



## Career goals

**Think about your career. Do you have any career goals that you want to achieve by the time you are a certain age? Write them down.**

When I am 35, I will be working in my dream job.

When I am 30, I will be running my own business.

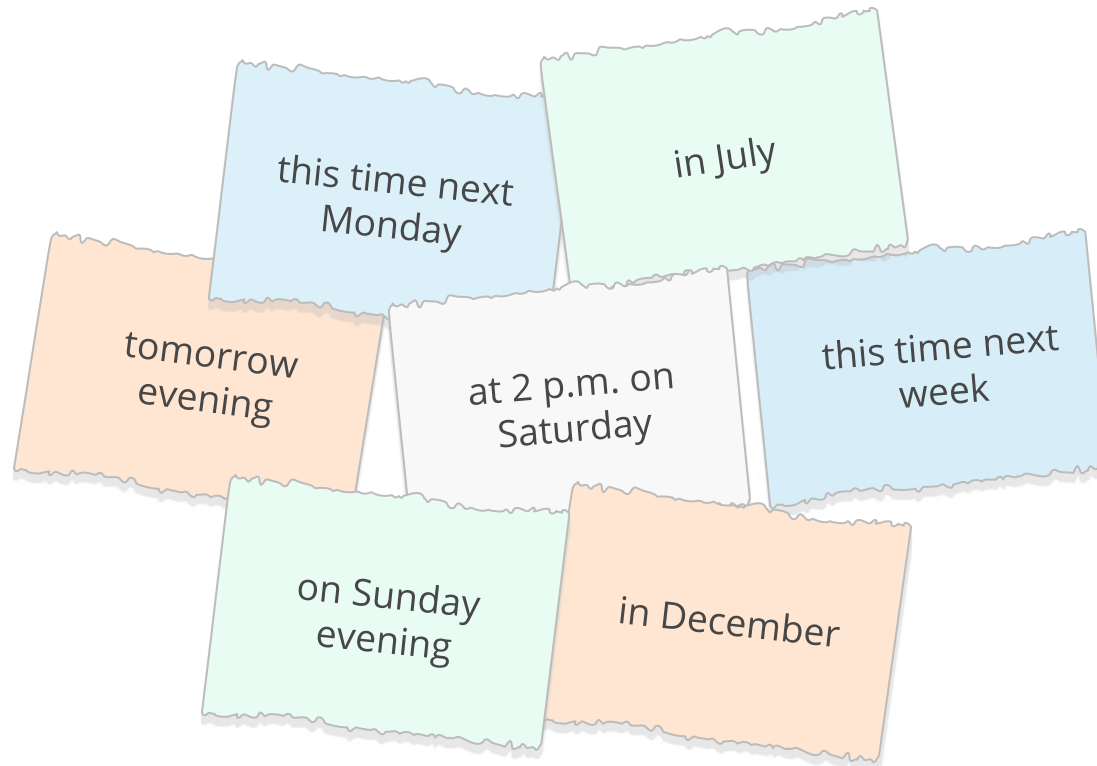
When I am 60, I will be enjoying my retirement.

A vertical sheet of lined paper with a spiral binding on the left side, intended for writing down career goals. The paper has several horizontal lines for writing.



## Speaking

Use the prompts below to make sentences in the future continuous about what you will be doing in the near future.





## The future perfect

- We use the **future perfect** to talk about an **action** which will be **finished before a certain time** in the future.
- The structure of the future perfect is: **will have + past participle**.

positive	negative	question
I <b>will have finished</b> my tasks by 4 p.m.	I <b>won't have finished</b> my tasks before 4 p.m.	<b>Will</b> you <b>have finished</b> your tasks by 4 p.m.?
They <b>will have visited</b> many cities by the time their business trip ends.	They <b>won't have visited</b> many cities by the time their business trip ends.	How many cities <b>will</b> they <b>have visited</b> by the time their business trip ends?
My salary <b>will have gone up</b> by the end of this year.	My salary <b>won't have gone up</b> by much by the end of this year.	<b>Will</b> my salary <b>have gone up</b> much by the end of this year?



## The future perfect

- The **future perfect** is often used with the words *by* and *in*.
- Look at the examples below.

by	in
He will have finished <b>by</b> tomorrow.	I will have retired <b>in</b> 20 years' time.
<b>By</b> this time next week, all of the papers will have been delivered.	<b>In</b> two weeks' time, we will have completed the project.
<b>By</b> 2050, the retirement age will have been raised.	<b>In</b> a week, I will have interviewed all of the candidates.



## The future perfect

- Here are some more phrases we often use with *by* in the **future perfect**.

by	by the time	by this time	by the end of
by Monday	by the time I'm 40	by this time next month	by the end of the year
by 1 p.m.	by the time I retire	by this time next week	by the end of the decade
by dinnertime	by the time we go to bed	by this time next year	by the end of the century





## Writing

**Write some sentences about things you hope will have happened in your life by certain points in the future (see the prompts below). Use the future perfect for your answers.**

by the time I  
retire

by this time  
next week

in 20 years'  
time

in a month

by dinnertime

by the end of  
the year

A vertical sheet of lined paper with a spiral binding on the left side, intended for writing answers.



By the year 2050...

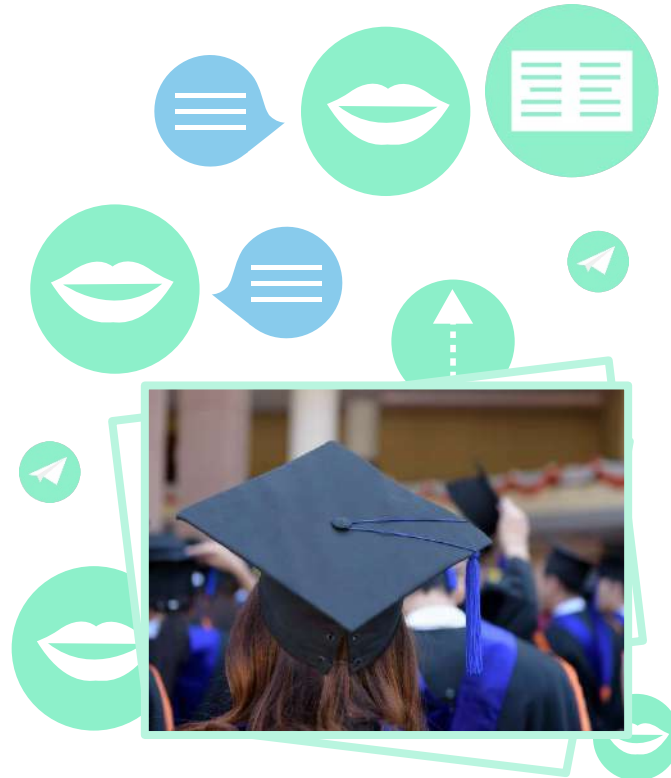
**Comment on the sentences below.  
Do you think they are true? Justify your answer.**



By 2050, over 80% of the population will have studied at university because more and more employers want employees that have a degree.



By 2050, the majority of low-skilled jobs will have disappeared and much of the previously lower-skilled workforce will have been retrained.

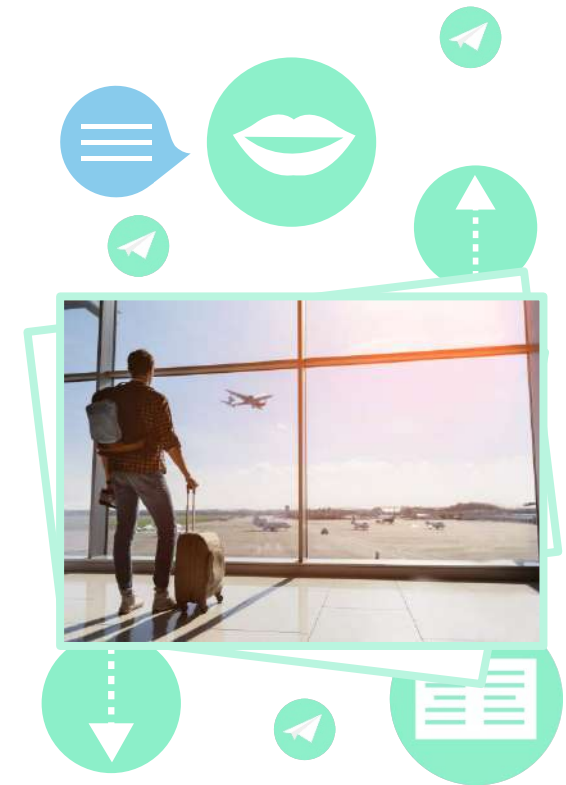




## Schedule

Read through Alan's schedule below.

8 a.m.	flight departs
9.30 a.m.	land in London
10.30 a.m.	check into hotel
11.00 a.m.	meeting with Don
1 p.m.	break for lunch





## Fill in the gaps

Now use Alan's schedule to fill in the gaps below with the future perfect or future continuous.

1. At 8 a.m., Alan's flight \_\_\_\_\_ [*depart*].
2. At 9 a.m., Alan \_\_\_\_\_ [*fly*].
3. By 10 a.m., Alan \_\_\_\_\_ [*land*] in London.
4. At 10.30 a.m., he \_\_\_\_\_ [*check in*] to his hotel.
5. By 11.15 a.m., he \_\_\_\_\_ [*start*] his meeting with Don.
6. At 1.10 p.m., he \_\_\_\_\_ [*have*] lunch.





## Fill in the gaps

Fill in the gaps with either the future perfect or the future continuous.

1. Sorry but I definitely \_\_\_\_\_  
[*not/finish*] the report by 7 p.m.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ [*he/eat*] dinner with us  
tomorrow?
3. Matt \_\_\_\_\_ [*sleep*] by now. He goes  
to bed at 9 p.m. every day.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ [*they/had*] lunch before they  
come or should I prepare something?
5. Anna \_\_\_\_\_ [*not/work*] next week  
because she is going on holiday.





## Speaking

**Which of these things do you hope you will have done by the time you retire? Which do you hope you will be doing when you retire?**





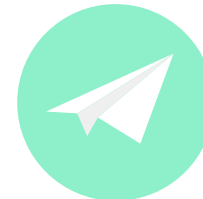
## Reflect on the goals

Go back to the second slide of the lesson and check if you have achieved all the goals of the lesson.

yes

no



## Reflect on this lesson

Think about everything you have seen in this lesson.  
What were the most difficult activities or words? The easiest?



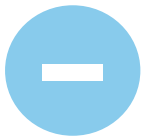
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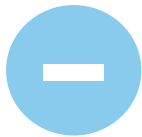
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If you have time, go over  
the most difficult slides again







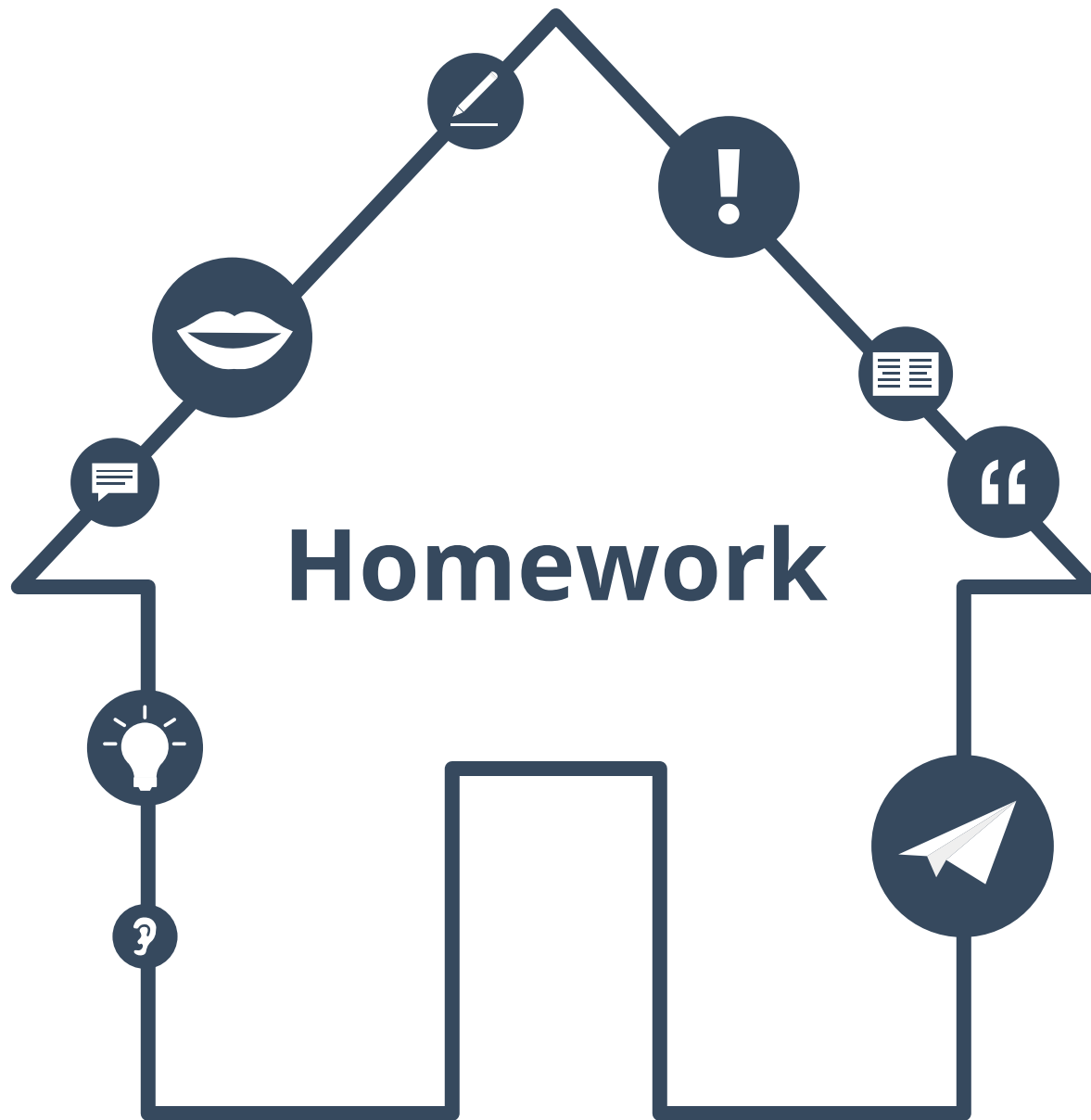
## Answer key

- Exercise p. 20**
1. will be departing
  2. will be flying
  3. will have landed
  4. will be checking in
  5. will have started
  6. will be having

- Exercise p. 11**
1. will (you) be watching, will be working
  2. will be eating, will (probably) be working
  3. will (you) be picking
  4. will you be using
  5. will be expecting

- Exercise p. 9**
1. will be living, 2. will be doing, 3. will be working, 4. will be retiring

- Exercise p. 21**
1. won't have finished
  2. will he be eating
  3. will be sleeping
  4. will they have had
  5. won't be working





## Jane's career path

Fill in the gaps with the verbs in the future perfect or continuous.

1. By the time Jane is 18, she \_\_\_\_\_ [*get*] her first part-time job.
2. When Jane is 21, she \_\_\_\_\_ [*study*] at university.
3. By the time she is 23, Jane \_\_\_\_\_ [*start*] her first full-time job.
4. When Jane is 24, she \_\_\_\_\_ [*apply*] for new jobs.
5. By her 30<sup>th</sup> birthday, Jane \_\_\_\_\_ [*start*] to work in a management position.
6. When she is 45, Jane \_\_\_\_\_ [*sit*] on the board of directors.
7. By the time Jane is 70, she \_\_\_\_\_ [*retire*].

Now use this as a model for your sentences on the next page.





## Homework answer key

- Exercise p. 27**
1. will have got
  2. will be studying
  3. will have started
  4. will be applying
  5. will have started
  6. will be sitting
  7. will have retired

