

Future Continuous

Positive	Negative	Question
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I will be travelling.• You will be travelling.• He will be travelling.• She will be travelling.• It will be travelling.• We will be travelling.• You will be travelling.• They will be travelling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I will not be travelling.• You will not be travelling.• He will not be travelling.• She will not be travelling.• It will not be travelling.• We will not be travelling.• You will not be travelling.• They will not be travelling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Will I be travelling?• Will you be travelling?• Will he be travelling?• Will she be travelling?• Will it be travelling?• Will we be travelling?• Will you be travelling?• Will they be travelling?

Note: when speaking we use the contractions:

I will be travelling = I'll be travelling

you will be travelling = you'll be travelling

he will be travelling = he'll be travelling

she will be travelling = she'll be travelling

it will be travelling = it'll be travelling

we will be travelling = we'll be travelling

you will be travelling = you'll be travelling

they will be travelling = they'll be travelling

will not be travelling = won't be travelling

We also use contractions for informal writing like emails to friends and colleagues. When you write a formal text, like a job application letter, you **MUST** use full forms.

USE 1 Interrupted Action in the Future



We use the Future Continuous to indicate that a longer action in the future will be interrupted by a shorter action in the future. Remember this can be a real interruption or just an interruption in time.

- I will be watching TV *when she arrives tonight*.
- I will be waiting for you *when your bus arrives*.
- I will be staying at the Madison Hotel, *if anything happens and you need to contact me*.
- He will be studying at the library tonight, so he will not see Jennifer *when she arrives*.

Notice in the examples above that the interruptions (marked in italics) are in the Present Simple rather than the Will Future (also known as the Future Simple). This is because the interruptions are in time clauses, and you cannot use future tenses in time clauses.

USE 2 Specific Time as an Interruption in the Future

In USE 1, described above, the Future Continuous is interrupted by a short action in the future. In addition to using short actions as interruptions, you can also use a specific time as an interruption.

- Tonight at 6 PM, I will be eating dinner.
- At midnight tonight, we will still be driving through the desert.

REMEMBER

In the Will Future (also known as the Future Simple), a specific time is used to show the time an action will begin or end. In the Future Continuous, a specific time interrupts the action.

- Tonight at 6 PM, I will have dinner. = I will start eating dinner at 6 PM.
- Tonight at 6 PM, I will be having dinner. = I will start eating dinner earlier and I will be in the process of eating dinner at 6 PM.

USE 3 Parallel Actions in the Future



We use the Future Continuous with two or more actions in the same sentence to express the idea that the actions will be happening at the same time. The actions are parallel.

- At 5pm this afternoon I will be studying and my boyfriend will be making dinner.
- Tonight, they will be having dinner, discussing their plans, and having a good time.
- While Ellen is reading, Tim will be watching television.

Note: We use "is reading" because of the time clause containing "while."

USE 4 Atmosphere in the Future

We use the Future Continuous to express a series of parallel actions that describe the atmosphere at a specific point in the future.

Example:

When I arrive at the party, everybody will be celebrating. Some will be dancing. Others will be talking. A few people will be eating pizza, and lots of people will be drinking beer.

REMEMBER No Future in Time Clauses

Like all future tenses, the Future Continuous cannot be used in clauses beginning with time expressions such as: when, while, before, after, by the time, as soon as, if, unless, etc. Instead of Future Continuous, Present Continuous is used.

- While I will be finishing my homework, she is going to make dinner. **Not Correct**
- While I am finishing my homework, she is going to make dinner. **Correct**

REMEMBER Non-Continuous Verbs / Mixed Verbs

It is important to remember that Non-Continuous Verbs (also known as 'stative' verbs or 'state' verbs) cannot be used in any continuous tenses. Also, certain non-continuous meanings for Mixed Verbs cannot be used in continuous tenses. Instead of using Future Continuous with these verbs, you must use Will Future (also known as the Future Simple).

- Jane will be being at my house when you arrive. **Not Correct**
- Jane will be at my house when you arrive. **Correct**

ADVERB PLACEMENT

The examples below show the placement for grammar adverbs such as: always, only, never, ever, still, just, etc.

- You will **still** be waiting for her when her plane arrives.
- Will you **still** be waiting for her when her plane arrives?

ACTIVE / PASSIVE

- At 8:00 PM tonight, John will be washing the dishes. Active
- At 8:00 PM tonight, the dishes will be being washed by John. Passive

NOTE: Passive forms of the Future Continuous are not common.

EXERCISES

Will Future and Future Continuous:

<http://www.englishpage.com/verbpage/verbs23.htm>

Present Simple, Will Future, Present Continuous, and Future Continuous:

<http://www.englishpage.com/verbpage/verbs24.htm>