

Future continuous

Grammar Lesson, Examples & 30 Practice Questions

Future Continuous: Talking About Actions in Progress in the Future

The **future continuous** is used to describe an action that will be *in progress* at a specific moment in the future. Instead of simply saying something will happen, we use the future continuous to show that it will be *ongoing* — happening around a particular time.

Think of it like looking through a window into the future and watching something already taking place.

For example:

- *This time tomorrow, I **will be sitting** on a beach in Spain.*
- *At 9 p.m. tonight, she **will be cooking** dinner.*
- *By the time you arrive, we **will be waiting** for you.*

The future continuous is also used in more subtle ways — to make polite enquiries, to talk about expected events, or to show that one future action will be interrupted by another. We will explore all of these uses in this lesson.

How to Form the Future Continuous

Forming the future continuous is straightforward. You need three components:

Subject + will + be + verb-ing

The **will** never changes, regardless of the subject. The **be** is always the base form. The main verb always takes the **-ing** ending (also called the present participle).

Examples:

- *I **will be working** at noon.*
- *You **will be travelling** this time next week.*
- *He **will be studying** when you call.*
- *They **will be having** a meeting all morning.*

Affirmative, Negative, and Question Forms

Affirmative (Positive) Form

Subject + will + be + verb-ing

You can also use the contraction **I'll, you'll, he'll, she'll, it'll, we'll, they'll** in informal speech and writing.

Subject	Full Form	Contracted Form	Example
I	I will be working	I'll be working	I'll be working all day tomorrow.
You	You will be waiting	You'll be waiting	You'll be waiting at the gate, won't you?
He	He will be driving	He'll be driving	He'll be driving home at six o'clock.
She	She will be sleeping	She'll be sleeping	She'll be sleeping when we get there.
It	It will be raining	It'll be raining	It'll be raining throughout the afternoon.
We	We will be travelling	We'll be travelling	We'll be travelling by train.
They	They will be meeting	They'll be meeting	They'll be meeting the new director tomorrow.

Negative Form

Subject + will + not + be + verb-ing

The contraction is **won't be + verb-ing**.

Subject	Full Form	Contracted Form	Example
I	I will not be attending	I won't be attending	I won't be attending the meeting.
She	She will not be joining	She won't be joining	She won't be joining us for dinner.
They	They will not be returning	They won't be returning	They won't be returning until Monday.
We	We will not be using	We won't be using	We won't be using that office any more.

Question Form

Will + subject + be + verb-ing + ?

In questions, **will** moves to the front of the sentence, before the subject.

Question	Short Answer (Yes)	Short Answer (No)
Will you be coming to the party?	Yes, I will.	No, I won't.
Will she be presenting the report?	Yes, she will.	No, she won't.
Will they be staying overnight?	Yes, they will.	No, they won't.
Will he be working late again?	Yes, he will.	No, he won't.

Key Uses of the Future Continuous

Use 1: An Action in Progress at a Specific Future Time

The most common use of the **future continuous** is to describe something that will be happening at a *particular moment* in the future. You are imagining a scene at a future point in time and describing what will be going on.

Common time expressions used with this meaning:

- *at this time tomorrow*
- *at noon / at midnight*
- *this time next week / next year*
- *at 8 o'clock tonight*
- *in three hours*

Examples:

- *At this time next Monday, I **will be flying** to New York.*
- *They **will be watching** the match at seven o'clock.*
- *In two hours, she **will be sitting** her final exam.*

Use 2: A Future Action That Will Be Interrupted

The future continuous is often used alongside the **simple past** construction in future time clauses to show that a longer action will be interrupted by a shorter one.

The longer, ongoing action uses the **future continuous**. The interrupting action uses the **present simple** (in the time clause with *when* or *while*).

Pattern: [Future continuous — ongoing action] + *when/while* + [Present simple — interrupting action]

Examples:

- *I **will be cooking** dinner when you arrive.*
- *She **will be sleeping** when the alarm goes off.*
- *He **will be giving** his presentation when we walk in.*

Use 3: Planned or Expected Future Events (Part of a Routine or Schedule)

The future continuous can be used to talk about events that are expected to happen as part of a natural course of events — often things that are already planned or that are simply the result of how things are going. This is different from using *will* alone, which can sound like a decision or a prediction. The future continuous sounds more like something that is already arranged or expected to unfold.

Examples:

- *The manager **will be reviewing** all applications next week. (It is part of the process.)*
- *The team **will be travelling** across Europe throughout the summer.*
- *We **will be announcing** the results at the end of the month.*

Use 4: Polite Questions About Someone's Plans

At B2 level, this is a particularly important use to master. The **future continuous** in questions can sound more polite and less direct than using *will* alone. Instead of asking what someone intends to do (which can sound

demanding), you are simply asking about their expected plans or schedule.

Compare:

- *Will you send me the report?* — A direct request or question about intention.
- *Will you be sending me the report?* — A polite enquiry about what they plan to do.

More examples of polite future continuous questions:

- *Will you **be attending** the conference next week?*
- *Will she **be needing** any assistance?*
- *Will they **be joining** us for the meeting?*

Use 5: Two Future Actions Happening at the Same Time

You can use the **future continuous** in two clauses to show that two actions will be happening simultaneously (at the same time) in the future.

Examples:

- *While I **will be presenting**, my colleague **will be managing** the slides.*
- *She **will be studying** while her brother **will be working**.*
- *This time tomorrow, some of us **will be relaxing** on the beach while others **will be still travelling**.*

Spelling Rules for the -ing Form

Since the **future continuous** always uses the **verb + -ing**, it is important to know the key spelling rules for forming the present participle correctly.

Rule 1: Most Verbs — Simply Add -ing

work → working, read → reading, play → playing, sleep → sleeping

Rule 2: Verbs Ending in a Silent -e — Remove the -e, Then Add -ing

drive → driving, write → writing, take → taking, make → making

Rule 3: Short Verbs Ending in Consonant + Vowel + Consonant — Double the Final Consonant

This applies when the final syllable is stressed.

run → running, sit → sitting, get → getting, begin → beginning, travel → travelling (British English doubles the l)

Rule 4: Verbs Ending in -ie — Change -ie to -y, Then Add -ing

lie → lying, die → dying, tie → tying

Future Continuous vs. Simple Future (Will)

Both the **future continuous** and the **simple future with will** refer to future time, but they have different meanings and uses. Understanding this difference is key at B2 level.

Simple Future (will + base verb)	Future Continuous (will + be + -ing)
A decision made at the moment of speaking	An action already in progress at a future time
A prediction about a future event	An ongoing situation at a specific future moment
A direct request or offer	A polite enquiry about plans or arrangements
<i>I will call you at noon.</i> (a decision)	<i>I will be calling clients all morning.</i> (ongoing at that time)
<i>She will finish the report tonight.</i> (completed action)	<i>She will be finishing the report tonight.</i> (in progress)
<i>Will you help me?</i> (direct request)	<i>Will you be helping with the event?</i> (polite question about plans)

Future Continuous vs. Future Perfect Continuous

Students sometimes confuse the **future continuous** with the **future perfect continuous**. Here is a clear comparison:

Tense	Structure	Focus	Example
Future Continuous	will + be + -ing	Action in progress at a future moment	<i>At 6 p.m., I will be cooking dinner.</i>
Future Perfect Continuous	will + have + been + -ing	Duration of an action up to a future point	<i>By 6 p.m., I will have been cooking for two hours.</i>

The **future continuous** tells us what will be happening. The **future perfect continuous** tells us *how long* something will have been happening by a certain point.

Stative Verbs and the Future Continuous

Just as with the present continuous, **stative verbs** (also called state verbs) are not normally used in the future continuous form. Stative verbs describe states, feelings, or conditions rather than active, ongoing processes. They do not typically have a continuous form in any tense.

Common stative verbs to avoid using in the future continuous:

Category	Examples
Feelings and emotions	love, hate, like, prefer, want, need
Mental states	know, believe, understand, remember, forget, realise
Senses (involuntary)	see, hear, smell, taste, feel

Category	Examples
Possession	have, own, belong, possess
Other states	be, seem, appear, contain, consist

Examples:

- ✗ *I will be knowing the answer by tomorrow.*
- ✓ **I will know** the answer by tomorrow.
- ✗ *She will be wanting more information soon.*
- ✓ **She will want** more information soon.

Note: Some verbs can be both stative *and* dynamic depending on their meaning. For example, *have* as a stative verb means to possess (*I have a car*), but as a dynamic verb it is used in expressions like *have a meeting*, *have dinner*, which can be used in the continuous form.

- We **will be having** a meeting at 10 a.m. ✓ (dynamic use of *have*)

Common Mistakes

- ✗ *At eight o'clock, I will working on the project.*
- ✓ **At eight o'clock, I will be working on the project.** (Do not forget *be* between *will* and the -ing verb.)
- ✗ *She will be work late tonight.*
- ✓ **She will be working late tonight.** (The main verb must take the -ing form, not the base form.)
- ✗ *Will they be come to the conference?*
- ✓ **Will they be coming to the conference?** (Use the -ing form after *will be*, not the base form.)
- ✗ *I will be knowing the result tomorrow.*
- ✓ **I will know the result tomorrow.** (Stative verbs such as *know* cannot be used in the future continuous.)
- ✗ *At this time next week, I am flying to Berlin.*
- ✓ **At this time next week, I will be flying to Berlin.** (Use the future continuous, not the present continuous, when referring to a specific moment in future time.)
- ✗ *By the time you arrive, we will be waited for you.*
- ✓ **By the time you arrive, we will be waiting for you.** (Use the present participle *waiting*, not the past participle *waited*.)
- ✗ *Will he be come home soon?*
- ✓ **Will he be coming home soon?** (Never use the base form directly after *will be*; always use the -ing form.)

Useful Time Expressions with the Future Continuous

These time expressions are commonly used with the **future continuous** to anchor the ongoing action in time:

Time Expression	Example
at this time tomorrow	<i>At this time tomorrow, I'll be boarding my flight.</i>
this time next week / year	<i>This time next year, she'll be living in Paris.</i>
at + specific time	<i>At 3 p.m., they'll be presenting their findings.</i>
all day / all morning / all night	<i>He'll be studying all evening.</i>
when + present simple	<i>I'll be sleeping when you get home.</i>
while	<i>While I'll be giving the tour, James will be handling reception.</i>
throughout + time period	<i>We'll be negotiating throughout the week.</i>
in + time	<i>In ten minutes, the train will be leaving the station.</i>

Future Continuous: Quick Summary

The **future continuous** is formed with **will + be + verb-ing**. It is used in several important situations:

- To describe an action that will be **in progress at a specific future moment**: *At noon, she'll be giving her speech.*
- To describe a **longer future action that will be interrupted** by a shorter one: *I'll be working when you call.*
- To talk about **planned or expected future events** that are part of a schedule or natural course of events: *The team will be reviewing applications next week.*
- To ask **polite questions about someone's plans**: *Will you be attending the meeting?*
- To describe **two actions happening at the same time in the future**: *While I'll be driving, she'll be navigating.*

Remember: **stative verbs** (like *know, want, believe, own*) are not used in the future continuous. Use the simple future with *will* instead.

The negative is formed with **will not (won't) + be + verb-ing**, and questions are formed by placing **will** before the subject: **Will + subject + be + verb-ing?**

Now practise the **future continuous** in the exercises below.

Future continuous – Practice Test

B2 | 30 Questions: Multiple Choice, Fill-in-the-Gap & Fill-in-the-Blank

Part 1: Multiple Choice (Questions 1–10)

1 At 9 p.m. tonight, I ____ my favourite TV series.

- A** will watch
- B** will be watching
- C** am watching
- D** would watch

2 This time next week, they ____ on the beach in Spain.

- A** will relax
- B** are going to relax
- C** will be relaxing
- D** would be relaxing

3 Which sentence correctly uses the future continuous?

- A** She will finishing the report by noon.
- B** She will be finish the report by noon.
- C** She will be finishing the report by noon.
- D** She is finishing the report by noon.

4 Don't call me at 3 o'clock. I ____ in a meeting.

- A** will be
- B** am going to be
- C** will be being
- D** will be sitting

5 By the time you arrive, we ____ dinner.

- A** will have
- B** will be having
- C** are having
- D** would have

6 The children ____ in bed when you get home.

- A** will sleep
- B** will be slept
- C** will be sleeping
- D** are going to sleep

7 I wonder if she ____ the same excuse again at tomorrow's meeting.

- A** uses
- B** will use
- C** will be using
- D** is using

8 Which time expression most naturally goes with the future continuous?

- A** yesterday evening
- B** by the end of the year
- C** this time tomorrow
- D** last week

9 He ____ hard for his exam all weekend.

- A** will study
- B** will be studied
- C** will be studying
- D** is going to be study

10 We ____ the new office building at this time next month.

- A** will have moved into
- B** will be moving into
- C** are moving into
- D** move into

Part 2: Fill in the Gap (Questions 11–20)

11 This time next week, we ____ on a beach in Thailand.

- A** will be relaxing
- B** will relax
- C** are relaxing

12 By 9 o'clock tonight, she ____ her final presentation for the conference.

- A** will be preparing
- B** will prepare
- C** is going to prepare

13 Don't call him at noon — he ____ his weekly report to the management team.

- A** will be presenting
- B** will have presented
- C** presents

14 I ____ from home all day tomorrow, so feel free to drop by.

- A** will be working
- B** will work
- C** am working

15 At midnight, the engineers ____ the new server system to check for errors.

- A** will be testing
- B** will test
- C** are going to test

16 While you ____ your exam, I will be waiting outside the hall for you.

- A** are taking
- B** will be taking
- C** will take

17 This time tomorrow, the delegates ____ about the new trade agreement in Brussels.

- A** will be negotiating
- B** will negotiate
- C** have negotiated

18 He ____ the marketing team next Thursday, so he has no time for other meetings.

- A** will be training
- B** trains
- C** is trained

19 They ____ the annual budget when the CEO arrives at the office.

- A** will be reviewing
- B** will have reviewed
- C** will review

20 ____ you ____ through Paris next month? If so, we could meet for coffee.

- A** Will ... be passing
- B** Are ... passing
- C** Do ... pass

Part 3: Fill in the Blank (Questions 21–30)

21 This time next week, we _____ over the Atlantic Ocean on our way to New York.

22 Don't call her at 8 p.m. — she _____ dinner with her family.

23 By the time you arrive, the band _____ on stage, so find your seat quickly.

24 Tomorrow afternoon, the engineers _____ the new software system for the first time.

25 She _____ next Monday because she has a hospital appointment.

26 _____ you be using your laptop this evening? I need to borrow it.

27 At midnight tonight, the rescue team _____ the mountains for the missing hikers.

28 I _____ for you outside the cinema when you get there, so don't worry.

29 This time tomorrow, the students _____ their final exam, so please keep the noise down.

30 He _____ a presentation to the board all morning, so he won't be able to take calls.

Answer Key & Explanations

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Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. **B** Correct Answer: will be watching ✓ Explanation: The future continuous (will be + verb-ing) describes an action that will be in progress at a specific time in the future. At 9 p.m. signals that the action will be ongoing at that moment.
2. **C** Correct Answer: will be relaxing ✓ Explanation: This time next week is a typical time expression used with the future continuous to indicate an action that will be happening at a particular future moment. The structure is will be + -ing.
3. **C** Correct Answer: She will be finishing the report by noon. ✓ Explanation: The future continuous is formed with will + be + verb-ing. The other options contain structural errors, such as missing be or using the base form instead of the -ing form.
4. **D** Correct Answer: will be sitting ✓ Explanation: The context implies an ongoing action at a future point (at 3 o'clock). Will be sitting correctly uses the future continuous to show the speaker will be in the middle of a meeting at that time.
5. **B** Correct Answer: will be having ✓ Explanation: The phrase by the time you arrive refers to a future moment, and the future continuous (will be having) expresses an action that will be in progress at that point. This is different from the future perfect, which emphasises completion.
6. **C** Correct Answer: will be sleeping ✓ Explanation: Will be sleeping correctly uses the future continuous to describe an action in progress at a future moment (when you get home). Note that when in time clauses is followed by the present simple, not a future form.
7. **C** Correct Answer: will be using ✓ Explanation: The future continuous can be used to make a prediction or assumption about what will be happening at a future time. Will be using implies the speaker anticipates an ongoing or repeated behaviour during tomorrow's meeting.
8. **C** Correct Answer: this time tomorrow ✓ Explanation: Expressions like this time tomorrow, this time next week, or at 6 o'clock tonight are classic triggers for the future continuous because they point to a specific future moment when an action will be in progress.
9. **C** Correct Answer: will be studying ✓ Explanation: Will be studying is the correct future continuous form (will + be + -ing). It describes an ongoing activity (studying all weekend) that will continue throughout a future period.
10. **B** Correct Answer: will be moving into ✓ Explanation: At this time next month specifies a future moment, making the future continuous the most appropriate choice to express an action that will be in progress at that time. The future perfect (will have moved) would suggest the action is already completed by then.

Part 2: Fill in the Gap

11. **A** Correct Answer: will be relaxing ✓ Explanation: The phrase this time next week signals an action in progress at a specific future moment, so we use the future continuous (will + be + -ing). We will be relaxing on a beach in Thailand.
12. **A** Correct Answer: will be preparing ✓ Explanation: By 9 o'clock tonight indicates a point in time when an action will be in progress, requiring the future continuous (will + be + -ing). She will be preparing her final presentation.
13. **A** Correct Answer: will be presenting ✓ Explanation: The context implies that an action will be in progress at a specific future time, so the future continuous is correct. He will be presenting his weekly report at noon.
14. **A** Correct Answer: will be working ✓ Explanation: All day tomorrow indicates a continuous action over a future period, which requires the future continuous (will + be + -ing). I will be working from home all day tomorrow.
15. **A** Correct Answer: will be testing ✓ Explanation: At midnight points to a specific future moment when an action will be ongoing, so the future continuous (will + be + -ing) is used. The engineers will be testing the new server system.
16. **A** Correct Answer: are taking ✓ Explanation: After the conjunction while in future time clauses, we use the present continuous (not will), even when referring to a future event. While you are taking your exam, I will be waiting outside.
17. **A** Correct Answer: will be negotiating ✓ Explanation: This time tomorrow signals an action in progress at a future point in time, which requires the future continuous (will + be + -ing). The delegates will be negotiating about the trade agreement.
18. **A** Correct Answer: will be training ✓ Explanation: The sentence refers to a planned ongoing activity at a specific future time (next Thursday), so the future continuous (will + be + -ing) is appropriate. He will be training the marketing team next Thursday.
19. **A** Correct Answer: will be reviewing ✓ Explanation: The future continuous is used here to show an action that will be in progress at the moment another future event occurs. They will be reviewing the annual budget when the CEO arrives.
20. **A** Correct Answer: Will ... be passing ✓ Explanation: The future continuous is commonly used in questions to politely ask about someone's future plans or schedule. Will you be passing through Paris next month?

Part 3: Fill in the Blank

21. **will be flying** Correct Answer: will be flying ✓ Explanation: We use the future continuous (will be + -ing) to describe an action that will be in progress at a specific time in the future. This time next week signals that moment.

22. **will be having|'ll be having** Correct Answer: will be having / 'll be having ✓ Explanation: The future continuous is used here to show that an activity will be ongoing at a particular future moment. At 8 p.m. is the reference point.
23. **will be performing|'ll be performing** Correct Answer: will be performing / 'll be performing ✓ Explanation: The future continuous describes an action that will already be in progress when another future event happens. The trigger is by the time you arrive.
24. **will be testing|'ll be testing** Correct Answer: will be testing / 'll be testing ✓ Explanation: Tomorrow afternoon specifies a future time period, and the future continuous (will be + -ing) expresses an action that will be in progress during that period.
25. **won't be working|will not be working** Correct Answer: won't be working / will not be working ✓ Explanation: The negative future continuous is formed with will not be + -ing. It indicates that an action will not be in progress at a given future time.
26. **Will** Correct Answer: Will ✓ Explanation: To form a future continuous question, we invert the subject and will: Will + subject + be + -ing. This structure is often used to politely ask about someone's plans.
27. **will be searching|'ll be searching** Correct Answer: will be searching / 'll be searching ✓ Explanation: At midnight tonight is a specific future moment. The future continuous shows the action will be ongoing at that exact time, not just starting or finishing.
28. **will be waiting|'ll be waiting** Correct Answer: will be waiting / 'll be waiting ✓ Explanation: The future continuous here expresses that the waiting action will already be in progress when the other person arrives, giving a sense of reassurance.
29. **will be sitting|'ll be sitting** Correct Answer: will be sitting / 'll be sitting ✓ Explanation: The phrase this time tomorrow points to a specific future moment. The future continuous (will be + -ing) describes what will be happening at that point.
30. **will be giving|'ll be giving** Correct Answer: will be giving / 'll be giving ✓ Explanation: The future continuous is used to show a planned or expected ongoing activity in the future. All morning emphasises the duration of the activity.

Score Guide

27–30 Correct	Excellent! You have mastered this topic.
23–26 Correct	Very good! Review the rules you missed.
18–22 Correct	Good start. Re-read the lesson and examples.
0–17 Correct	Study the lesson again before retaking the test.