

CAE MINI LESSON

LET'S LEARN ABOUT:
FUTURE FORMS



We use the **future continuous** to talk about actions and events that will be in progress at a particular time in the future. We also use the future continuous to talk about something that we think is happening at the time of speaking:

He will be attending his graduation ceremony this time next month.

We also use the **future continuous** to ask politely for information about the future.

Will you be participating in next term's fundraising event?

We use both the **future perfect simple** and the **future perfect continuous** to project ourselves forward in time and 'look back'. The future perfect simple tense refers to a completed action in the future and the future perfect continuous refers to events or actions that are currently unfinished, but will be finished at some future time. Both tenses are usually used with time expressions.

FUTURE PERFECT SIMPLE	FUTURE PERFECT CONTINUOUS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> refers to a completed action in the future. <i>Get a move on, or the match will have started by the time we make it to the ground.</i> <i>They will have emptied their water bottles by the time they are half way round the course.</i> <i>Hopefully they will have completed all the road works before the tourist season starts.</i> is used with state verbs (e.g. <i>know, believe, own, prefer</i>) <i>I can't believe that this time next week we will have known each other for five years.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> refers to actions that are currently unfinished, but will be finished in the future: <i>At midnight, we will have been waiting in the queue for concert tickets for three hours.</i> <i>They will have been working on that Roman wall for over a year by the time it's fully restored.</i>

BE + TO + INFINITIVE

We often use the structure *be + to + infinitive* to talk about formal or official arrangements, instructions and orders in the future. It is common to see this structure in the passive form.

The Prime Minister is to announce his resignation this evening due to the corruption scandal.

Bags and suitcases are not to be left unattended at any time or they will be removed. (passive form)

This jumper is only to be washed at 30°C. (passive form)

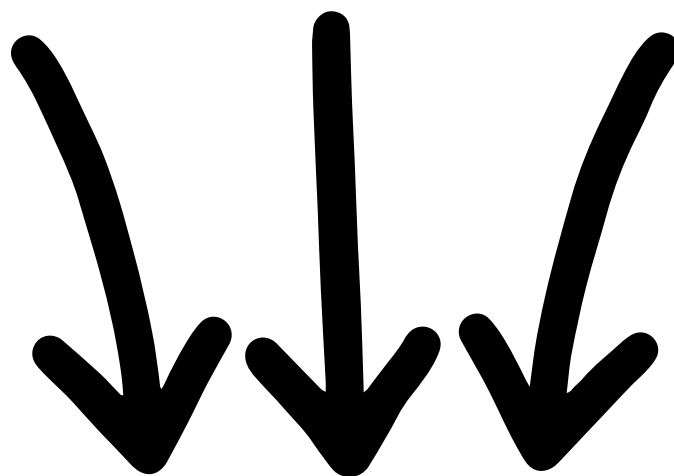
We do not use it for situations beyond human control:

*The forecast says that the weather is to **will** be pretty good tomorrow.*

We often see this structure in conditionals in the *if* clause to express an idea that is dependent on the result clause happening:

We must act now to reduce emissions if we are to protect the planet for future generations.

If she is to pass her driving test this time, she will have to practise her reversing and parking skills.



ACTIVITIES

COMPLETE THE SENTENCES USING THE FUTURE CONTINUOUS FORM OF THE VERBS IN BRACKETS.

1. BY 2025, SCIENTISTS _____ (LIKELY, DISCOVER) A MORE EFFICIENT FORM OF RENEWABLE ENERGY.
2. TOMORROW AFTERNOON, WE _____ (WORK) ON THE GROUP PROJECT, SO WE CAN'T JOIN YOU.
3. WHEN SHE RETIRES NEXT YEAR, SHE _____ (WORK) FOR THE COMPANY FOR ALMOST 40 YEARS.
4. BY THE TIME YOU GET BACK, I _____ (FINISH) ALL THE REPORTS.
5. THIS TIME NEXT WEEK, I _____ (FLY) TO NEW YORK.
6. THEY _____ (TRAVEL) FOR TWO WEEKS STRAIGHT BY THE TIME THEY RETURN FROM THEIR BACKPACKING TRIP.
7. AT 10 PM TONIGHT, THEY _____ (WATCH) THE SEASON FINALE.
8. BY NOON, I _____ (DRIVE) FOR SIX HOURS, SO I'LL DEFINITELY NEED A BREAK.
9. I PROMISE THAT BY THIS TIME NEXT YEAR, I _____ (COMPLETE) MY NOVEL.
10. WHEN YOU ARRIVE, I _____ (PROBABLY, SLEEP).
11. THEY _____ (NOT, SEE) EACH OTHER FOR MONTHS BY THE TIME SHE RETURNS.
12. BY THE END OF THE MONTH, SHE _____ (LIVE) IN LONDON FOR TWO YEARS.
13. BY THE END OF THIS COURSE, WE _____ (STUDY) ENGLISH FOR OVER THREE YEARS.
14. WE _____ (MOVE) INTO OUR NEW HOUSE BY THE END OF NEXT WEEK.
15. BY THE TIME THE CONCERT BEGINS, FANS _____ (WAIT) OUTSIDE FOR HOURS.

ANSWERS

- PART A: FUTURE CONTINUOUS
- THIS TIME NEXT WEEK, I WILL BE FLYING TO NEW YORK.
- AT 10 PM TONIGHT, THEY WILL BE WATCHING THE SEASON FINALE.
- TOMORROW AFTERNOON, WE WILL BE WORKING ON THE GROUP PROJECT, SO WE CAN'T JOIN YOU.
- WHEN YOU ARRIVE, I WILL PROBABLY BE SLEEPING.
- BY THE END OF THE MONTH, SHE WILL HAVE BEEN LIVING IN LONDON FOR TWO YEARS.

- PART B: FUTURE PERFECT
- BY THE TIME YOU GET BACK, I WILL HAVE FINISHED ALL THE REPORTS.
- THEY WILL NOT HAVE SEEN EACH OTHER FOR MONTHS BY THE TIME SHE RETURNS.
- I PROMISE THAT BY THIS TIME NEXT YEAR, I WILL HAVE COMPLETED MY NOVEL.
- WE WILL HAVE MOVED INTO OUR NEW HOUSE BY THE END OF NEXT WEEK.
- BY 2025, SCIENTISTS WILL LIKELY HAVE DISCOVERED A MORE EFFICIENT FORM OF RENEWABLE ENERGY.

- PART C: FUTURE PERFECT CONTINUOUS
- BY THE END OF THIS COURSE, WE WILL HAVE BEEN STUDYING ENGLISH FOR OVER THREE YEARS.
- WHEN SHE RETIRES NEXT YEAR, SHE WILL HAVE BEEN WORKING FOR THE COMPANY FOR ALMOST 40 YEARS.
- BY THE TIME THE CONCERT BEGINS, FANS WILL HAVE BEEN WAITING OUTSIDE FOR HOURS.
- THEY WILL HAVE BEEN TRAVELING FOR TWO WEEKS STRAIGHT BY THE TIME THEY RETURN FROM THEIR BACKPACKING TRIP.
- BY NOON, I WILL HAVE BEEN DRIVING FOR SIX HOURS, SO I'LL DEFINITELY NEED A BREAK.