

# Tenses

## (1) FUTURE SIMPLE TENSE

1. Form: will + v. (infinitive)

forms \ P.P.S	I, he, she, you, we, they
Positive form	Tomorrow, I <b>will visit</b> my family.
Negative form	Tomorrow, I <b>will not visit</b> my family.
Interrogative form	<b>Will</b> you (not) <b>visit</b> your family tomorrow?

## 2. Use

### Will

1. We use the future simple with 'will' to predict the future (future action / state).

- *The sun will rise at 7am.*
- *I think she will feel better after her exam period.*

2. Requests / promises / offers / refusals. This is sometimes called 'volitional' will. It's about wanting to do something or not wanting to do something in the future.

- *Will you give me a hand?*
- *I'll help you with your homework.*
- *I won't go!*

In a similar way, we often use 'will' when we're talking about a **decision at the moment of speaking**. We are usually making an offer or promise or talking about something that we want to do.

- *A: I'm cold. B: I'll close the window.*

3. We use the simple future with 'will' in conditional type "1".

- *If it doesn't rain, we'll go to the park.*

### Shall

'Shall' is used mainly in the forms 'shall I?' and 'shall we?' in **British English**. These forms are used when you want to get someone's opinion, especially for **offers** and **suggestions**.

- *Shall I open the window? (= Do you want me to open the window?)*
- *Where shall we go tonight? (= What's your opinion?)*

## Be going to

1. We often use 'be going to' to talk about our future intentions and plans. We have usually made our **plans before the moment of speaking**.

• *A: We've run out of milk. B: I know, I'm going to buy some.*

2. We can also use 'be going to' to make a prediction about the future. Often, it's possible to use both 'be going to' and 'will' but it's more common to use 'be going to' if we can see **evidence** in the present.

• *The sky is getting darker and darker. It's going to rain.*

### NOTE

We can use the simple present to refer to future schedules/timetables (see lesson N°1 on the present simple – use N°4).

• *The train leaves at 4 p.m.* • *Your time ends in 15 minutes.*

## (2) FUTURE CONTINUOUS TENSE

1. Form: will be + v. -ing

forms \ P.P.S	I, he, she, you, we, they
Positive form	I <b>will be waiting</b> for you.
Negative form	I <b>will not be waiting</b> for you.
Interrogative form	<b>Will you (not) be waiting</b> for me?

### 2. Use

1. We use the future continuous to talk about a long action in the future that overlaps a shorter action. The action in the future continuous usually starts before and might continue after the second action. The verb after 'when' is usually in the present simple.

• *I'll be waiting when you arrive.*  
• *At eight o'clock, I'll be eating dinner.*

2. We can use the future continuous to talk about a **future plan**. This is sometimes called 'future as a matter of course'. It's usually possible to choose the future simple as well, but we often choose the future continuous because then it's clear that we are not making a **request** or **offer**.

• *When will you be leaving? (This is more polite than 'when will you leave?' because it's definitely not a request for you to leave but a question about your future plan.)*  
• *I will be helping you tomorrow afternoon. (This is not an offer but an expression of my future plan.)*

## Practice

**Exercise 01:** Supply the correct form of the verbs between brackets. Use the future simple.

1. We ..... (have) a party next Saturday. Would you like to come?
2. A: Have you seen Liz recently? B: No, but we ..... (meet) for lunch next week.
3. A: '..... (you/ do) anything tomorrow morning?' B: 'No, I'm free. Why?'
4. The art exhibition ..... (finish) on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.
5. I ..... (leave) now. I've come to say goodbye.
6. What time ..... (this train / get) to London?
7. She is packing her belongings. I think she is ..... (leave).

**Exercise 02:** Supply the correct form of the verbs between brackets. Use the future continuous.

1. When the boss comes, I ..... (sit) here.
2. We cannot meet in the afternoon because I ..... (work).
3. Do you think ..... (you/ still/ do) the same job in ten years' time?
4. If you need to contact me, ..... (I/stay) at the Lion Hotel until Friday.
5. When she gets home, he ..... (still have) his exam.
6. I ..... (watch) when you leave.
7. Michael ..... (run) a marathon this Saturday.

## (3) FUTURE PERFECT TENSE

**1. Form:** will have + v. (past participle)

forms \ P.P.S	I, he, she, you, we, they
Positive form	I <b>will have visited</b> you.
Negative form	I <b>will not have visited</b> for you.
Interrogative form	<b>Will</b> you (not) <b>be waiting</b> for me?

## 2. Use

We use the future perfect with a future time word (often 'by') to talk about an action that will finish before a certain time in the future, but we don't know exactly when.

- *By 10 o'clock, I will have finished my homework. (= I will finish my homework some time before 10, but we don't know exactly when.)*
- *By the time I'm sixty, I will have retired. (= I will retire some time before I'm sixty. Maybe when I'm fifty-nine, maybe when I'm fifty-two.)*

## (4) FUTURE PERFECT CONTINUOUS TENSE

1. Form: will have been + v. -ing

forms \ P.P.S	I, he, she, you, we, they
Positive form	She <b>will have been teaching</b> for twelve years.
Negative form	I <b>will not have been studying</b> for twelve years.
Interrogative form	How long <b>will you have been teaching</b> ?

### 2. Use

We use the future perfect continuous to talk about the **duration** of an action that starts before and continues up to another point in the future. Generally, we use 'for + length of time' and if we use 'when' or 'by the time', we usually use the present simple.

- *In April, she will have been teaching for twelve years. (A teaching duration of twelve years)*
- *By the time you arrive, I'll have been cooking for three hours! (A cooking duration of three hours)*

### Practice

**Exercise 01:** A novelist writes 300-page books. She writes ten pages a day, and takes on holidays. Use the future perfect to answer the following questions:

- How many pages will she have written after ten days? After a month? After a year? After ten years?  
 → In ten days, .....  
 → By next month, .....  
 → By next year, .....  
 → In ten years from now, .....
- If she starts today, how soon will she have finished her first book?  
 → If she starts today, .....
- How many books will she have written a year from now?  
 → A year from now, .....
- She earns 100.000 dollars per book. How much money will she have made altogether after her 120<sup>th</sup> book?  
 → After her 120<sup>th</sup> book, .....

**Exercise 02:** Supply the correct form of the verbs between brackets. Use the future perfect.

- By this time tomorrow, I \_\_\_\_\_ (finish) the project.
- By 8 o'clock, the kids \_\_\_\_\_ (fall) asleep.
- By tomorrow morning, he \_\_\_\_\_ (sleep) wonderfully.
- By next year, she \_\_\_\_\_ (receive) her promotion.

5. Robin \_\_\_\_\_ (sell) his car by next Sunday.
6. Morgan \_\_\_\_\_ (clean) the entire house by lunch.
7. We \_\_\_\_\_ (dance) a few dances before midnight.

**Exercise 03:** *Supply the correct form of the verbs between brackets. Use the future perfect continuous.*

1. When you call me at 10 a.m., I \_\_\_\_\_ (work) for many hours.
2. In the afternoon, she \_\_\_\_\_ (play) tennis. So, she will not be able to come with us.
3. They \_\_\_\_\_ (travel), so they'll want to go to bed early.
4. I \_\_\_\_\_ (work) in this company for twenty years when I retire.
5. We \_\_\_\_\_ (live) here for ten years next month.
6. He \_\_\_\_\_ (study) English for three years when he takes the exam.
7. I \_\_\_\_\_ (sleep) for three hours at 10 p.m.