

Future 2

present simple; *be about to*;

future continuous; future perfect

Janet gets nervous when she gives talks at conferences.

Look at the pictures. Which do you think would help Janet feel more confident and relaxed?



What advice does Phil give her?

Phil: Hey Janet, have you finished the report yet?
Sarah was asking about it.

Janet: I'm afraid not. I'm about to go to Rome for a
conference and I won't be able to finish the
report before I go.

Phil: Oh. When do you think it will be ready?

Janet: The conference only lasts three days, so I'm
not in Rome for long – just the weekend. Then
I'll be working on the report all next week.

Phil: Can you do it before we have the departmental
meeting at the end of the month?

Janet: Oh, I'll easily have finished it by next Friday.
I've got it in my diary.

Phil: That's great. I'll be seeing Sarah at lunch, so I'll
tell her.

Janet: Thanks.

Phil: Are you giving a talk at the conference?

Janet: Yes, the same one I gave last month on plant diversity and environmental changes. By the end of the year I will have given the same talk at six conferences! Luckily it's a different audience each time, but I'll soon be getting polite requests to do something different! The funny thing is I still get nervous every time before I give it.

Phil: Oh come on, I don't believe that.

Janet: No, it's true. I'll be feeling really nervous when I get to Rome. I won't be able to relax until I'm actually giving my talk. Don't you get nervous when you give talks at conferences?

Phil: Not really, although I always make sure I prepare well. I always practise in front of a mirror. I look a bit of an idiot, but no one can see so I don't mind. I'm giving a talk in London next month and by the time I give the talk I'll have rehearsed it at least ten times. Practising like that makes me feel confident – you should try it.

Janet: That's a good idea. But even practice doesn't seem to help me.

Phil: Well, good luck, When are you leaving?

Janet: Well, I was going to leave this morning but they cancelled my flight, so I'm on the evening flight. Actually, I'd better get a move on, as the train to the airport leaves in 20 minutes.

What advice does Phil give her?

Phil advises Janet to practise in front of the mirror.

Read again and complete. Write no more than three words for each answer

- 1 Janet on the report all next week.
- 2 By the end of the year, Janet the same talk at six conferences.
- 3 When she gets to Rome, Janet very nervous.
- 4 Before he gives his talk in London, Phil it at least ten times.
- 5 Janet is in a hurry because the train to the airport in 20 minutes.

1 will be working 2 will have given 3 will be feeling
4 will have rehearsed 5 leaves

Look at the sentences used in Exercise 3 and answer these questions.

- 1 Which sentences talk about events that will be over before a time in the future?**
.....
- 2 Which sentences talk about events or situations in progress at a particular time in the future?**
- 3 Which sentence talks about a scheduled event?**

1 sentences 2 and 4 2 sentences 1 and 3 3 sentence 5

1 Present simple

We use the present simple with a future meaning

- ◆ to talk about timetables or schedules:

*The conference only **lasts** three days.*

*The train to the airport **leaves** in 20 minutes.*

- ◆ after conjunctions such as *when, as soon as, after, before, until, as long as*:

*I'll be feeling really nervous **when** I **get** to Rome. (~~not when I will get to Rome~~)*

*Can you do it **before** we **have** the departmental meeting? (~~not before we will have the meeting~~)*

Note that other present tenses are also possible:

*I won't be able to relax **until** I'm actually **giving** my talk.*

2 Be about to

+	<i>am/is/are about to + verb</i>	<i>I'm about to go to Rome.</i>
-	<i>am/is/are not about to + verb</i>	<i>I'm not about to go to Rome.</i>
?	<i>am/is/are ... + verb?</i>	<i>Are you about to go to Rome?</i>

We use *be about to* to talk about something likely to happen in the immediate future:
I'm about to go to Rome for a conference. (I will be leaving very soon)

⚠ The negative form suggests the speaker has no intention of doing something:
I'm not about to cancel my trip. (= I have no intention of cancelling my trip)

3 Future continuous

+ *will be + verb + -ing*

I'll be feeling nervous.

- *will not (won't) be + verb + -ing*

She won't be feeling nervous.

? *will ... be + verb + -ing?*

Will you be feeling nervous?

We use the future continuous

- ◆ to describe or predict events or situations continuing at a particular point in the future or over a period of time in the future:

I'll be working on the report all next week.



*By the year 2020 it is estimated that well over one billion people **will be learning** English.*

- ◆ to talk about events that are planned or already decided (this use is similar to the present continuous for future arrangements):

I'll be seeing Sarah at lunch.

4 Future perfect simple

+	<i>will have + past participle</i>	<i>I'll have done it by then.</i>
-	<i>will not (won't) have + past participle</i>	<i>We won't have done it by then.</i>
?	<i>will ... + have + past participle?</i>	<i>Will you have done it by then?'</i>

We use the future perfect simple to talk about a future event that will finish before a specified time in the future, often with *before*, *by + fixed time*, or *in + amount of time*:

By the end of the year I will have given the same talk at 6 conferences!

I'll have finished it by next Friday.

In a week's time I'll have written the report.

5 Future perfect continuous

+ *will have been + verb + -ing*

I'll have been studying here for three months.

- *will not (won't) have been + verb + -ing*

We won't have been studying here for long.

? *will ... + have been + verb + -ing?*

How long will you have been studying here?

We use the future perfect continuous to show how long an activity or situation has been in progress before a specified time in the future. We usually mention the length of time:

By the end of the month I'll have been working here for three years.

Grammar extra: The future in the past

We use *was/were going to*, *was/were planning to*, *was/were about to + verb* to talk something planned which did not or will not happen:

I was going to leave this morning but they cancelled my flight.

We were about to leave when the phone rang.

Grammar exercise

In six of these sentences there is a verb in the wrong tense. Underline each mistake and write the correction.

- 1 When I'll find the answer I'll let you know. I find
- 2 My exams finish on 27th June.
- 3 I'll be fine in the interview as long as they won't ask me technical questions.
- 4 What time is your meeting about to start tomorrow?
- 5 I'll hand in my notice for this job after I'll get the contract for my new one.
- 6 I'll text you before we set off:
- 7 The bus doesn't arrive until 7.30 in the evening.
- 8 I've got my schedule for the Japan trip. We're about to fly to Tokyo at 10 am on Monday, and then travel by train to Kyoto for one night.
- 9 The moment I'll receive my results I'll phone you.

2 ✓ 3 ~~they won't ask~~ they don't ask

4 ~~is your meeting about to start~~ does your meeting start

5 ~~after I'll get~~ after I get 6 ✓ 7 ✓

8 ~~We're about to fly~~ We fly

9 ~~I'll receive~~ I receive (> B1)

Test practice

- **Indoor farming**

- **1**Some food plants, including **tomatoes**, are already grown indoors.
- **2**Vertical farms would be located in **urban centres/centers**, meaning that there would be less need to take them long distances to customers.
- **3**Vertical farms could use methane from plants and animals to produce **energy**.
- **4**The consumption of **fossil fuel** would be cut because agricultural vehicles would be unnecessary.
- **5**The fact that vertical farms would need **artificial** light is a disadvantage.
- **6**One form of vertical farming involves planting in **stacked trays/trays** which are not fixed.
- **7**The most probable development is that food will be grown on **urban rooftops/rooftops** in towns and cities.

- **8**Methods for predicting the Earth's population have recently changed. **NOT GIVEN**
- **9**Human beings are responsible for some of the destruction to food-producing land. **TRUE**
- **10**The crops produced in vertical farms will depend on the season. **FALSE**
- **11**Some damage to food crops is caused by climate change. **TRUE**
- **12**Fertilisers will be needed for certain crops in vertical farms. **FALSE**
- **13**Vertical farming will make plants less likely to be affected by infectious diseases. **TRUE**