

THE BE GOING TO FORM

A FORM

The present continuous tense of the verb to go + the full infinitive:

I'm going to buy a bicycle.

She is not going to be there.

Is he going to lecture in English?

B USE

1- THE BE GOING TO FORM USED FOR INTENTION

The **be going to** form expresses the subject's intention to perform a certain future action. This intention is always premeditated and there is usually also the idea that some preparation for the action has already been made.

The **be going to** can be used without a time expression;

I'm going to play you a Bach fugue.

He is going to lend me his bicycle.

It then usually refers to the immediate or near future.

The **be going to** can be used for the near future with a time expression as an alternative to the present continuous, i.e. we can say:

I'm/I am meeting Tom at the station at six.

I'm/I am going to meet Tom at the station at six.

But note that I'm meeting Tom implies an arrangement with Tom. I'm going to meet Tom does not: Tom may get a surprise!

2- THE BE GOING TO FORM USED FOR PREDICTION

A The **be going to** form can express the speaker's feeling of certainty. The time is usually not mentioned, but the action is expected to happen in the near or immediate future:

Look at those clouds! It's going to rain.

Listen to the wind. We 're going to have a rough crossing.

It can be used in this way after such verbs as be sure/afraid, believe, think:

How pale that girl is! I am sure/I believe/I think she is going to faint.

THE FUTURE SIMPLE

A FORM

will + infinitive.

Affirmative

I will/I'll work

you will/you'll work

he will/he'll work

Negative

I will not/won't work

you will not/won't work

he will not/won't work

Interrogative

Will I work?

will you work?

will he work? et

B USE

1- To express the subject's intention to perform an action in the future, the intention here is not premeditated, i.e. it is expressed at the moment of speaking (no preparations have been made).

This bag is heavy, wait I will help you.

Someone is knocking on the door, I'll open it.

2- To express the speaker's opinions, assumptions, speculations about the future.

These may be introduced by verbs such as assume, be afraid, be/feel sure, believe, daresay, doubt, expect, hope, know, suppose, think, wonder or accompanied by adverbs such as perhaps, possibly, probably, surely, but can be used without them:

(I'm sure) he 'll come back. (I suppose) they 'll sell the house.

(Perhaps) we 'll find him at the hotel. They'll (probably) wait for us.

2- The future simple is used in sentences containing clauses of condition, time and sometimes purpose:

If I drop this glass it will break.

When it gets warmer the snow will start to melt.

I'm pulling this letter on top of the pile so that he'll read it first.

Note that in an **if**-clause or a time clause we don't use the future simple even when the meaning is future:

He will probably be late but If he is late . . . and It will get warmer soon but When it gets warmer . . .

Exercise 1 : Put the verbs in brackets into the be going to form.

- 1 You (miss) your train.
- 2 The pressure cooker (explode).
- 3 When you (pay) the bill?
- 4 She (dye) the old curtains blue.
- 5 We (make) this whisky bottle into a lamp.
- 6 What you (do) with this room? -
I (paint) the walls in black and white stripes.
- 7 The umpire (blow) his whistle.
- 8 You (eat) all that?
- 9 That man with the tomato in his hand (throw) it at the speaker.
- 10 That door (slam).
- 11 The bull (attack) us.
- 12 It (rain). Look at those clouds.
- 13 The cat (have) kittens.
- 14 The men in the helicopter (try) to rescue the man in the water.
- 15 That rider (fall) off.
- 16 These two men (cycle) across Africa.
- 17 The Lord Mayor is standing up. He (make) a speech.
- 18 He (grow) a beard when he leaves school.
- 19 This aeroplane (crash).
- 20 I (stop) here for a moment to get some petrol.

Exercise 2 :Put the verbs in brackets into the future simple.

- 1 I (know) the result in a week.
- 2 You (be) in Rome tonight.
- 3 You (have) time to help me tomorrow?
- 4 It (matter) if I don't come home till morning?
- 5 You (be) able to drive after another five lessons.
- 6 Do you think that he (recognize) me?
- 7 Unless he runs he (not catch) the train.
- 8 He (lend) it to you if you ask him.
- 9 I hope I (find) it.
- 10 If petrol pump attendants go on strike we (not have) any petrol.
- 11 He (believe) whatever you tell him.
- 12 I (remember) this day all my life.
- 13 Perhaps he (arrive) in time for lunch.
- 14 If he works well I (pay) him £10.
- 15 I wonder how many of us still (be) here next year.
- 16 If you think it over you (see) that I am right.
- 17 If you learn another language you (get) a better job.
- 18 I am sure that you (like) our new house.
- 19 Newspaper announcement: The President (drive) along the High Street in an open carriage.
- 20 He (mind) if I bring my dog?

FUTURE CONTINUOUS

A/ FORM

[will be + present participle]

Positive	Negative	Question
I will be waiting.	I will not be waiting.	Will I be waiting?
You will be waiting.	You will not be waiting.	Will you be waiting?
We will be waiting.	We will not be waiting.	Will we be waiting?

They will be waiting .	They will not be waiting .	Will they be waiting?
He will be waiting .	He will not be waiting .	Will he be waiting?
She will be waiting .	She will not be waiting .	Will she be waiting?
It will be waiting .	It will not be waiting .	Will it be waiting?

B/ USE

1- Interrupted Action in the Future

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.

Examples:

- I **will be watching** TV when she *arrives* tonight.
- I **will be waiting** for you when your bus *arrives*.

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.

Examples:

- At midnight tonight, we **will still be driving** through the desert.
- I **will be watching** a movie tomorrow this time.

3- Parallel Actions in the Future

When you use the Future Continuous with two actions in the same sentence, it expresses the idea that both actions will be happening at the same time. The actions are parallel.

Examples:

Tonight, they **will be eating** dinner, **discussing** their plans, and **having** a good time.

Exercise 1 : Put the verbs in brackets into the future continuous tense.

- 1 When I get home my dog (sit) at the door waiting for me.
- 2 When you arrive I probably (pick) fruit.
- 3 When we reach England it very likely (rain).
- 4 In a few days time we (fly) over the Pyrenees.
- 5 I'll call for her at eight. ~ No, don't; she still (have) breakfast then.
- 6 I (wait) for you when you come out.
- 7 When you next see me I (wear) my new dress.
- 10 You (do) geometry next term.
- 12 We have to do night duty here. I (do) mine next week.
- 13 In a hundred years' time people (go) to Mars for their holidays.
- 14 He (use) the car this afternoon.
- 15 I (see) you again.
- 16 It's a serious injury but he (walk) again in six weeks.
- 17 I'll come at three o'clock. ~ Good, I (expect) you.
- 18 Stand there, they (change) the guard in a minute and you'll get a good view.
- 19 You'd better go back now; your mother (wonder) where you are.
- 20 In fifty years' time we (live) entirely on pills.

Exercise 2 :

- 1 You've just missed the last train! ~ Never mind, I (walk).
- 2 I'll ring you tomorrow at six. ~ No, don't ring at six; I (bath) the baby then. Ring later.
- 3 Mother: Your face is dirty. Child: All right, I (wash) it.
- 4 Will you have lunch with me on the 24th? ~ I'd love to, but I'm afraid I (do) my exam then.
- 5 I (work) for Mr Pitt next week as his own secretary will be away.
- 6 Why did you take his razor? He (look) for it everywhere tomorrow.
- 7 I hope you'll do well in the race tomorrow. I (think) of you.

8 I don't feel well enough to go to the station to meet him.
I (meet) him for you. But how I (recognize) him? ~
9 I (leave) these flowers at the hospital for you. I (go) there anyway visit my cousin.
10 I want to post this letter but I don't want to go out in the rain.
I (post) it for you. I (go) out anyway as I have to take the dog for a walk.
10 This time next Monday I (sit) in a Paris cafe reading *Le Figaro*. ~
11 Wages have gone up, so I suppose prices (go up) too.
12 Mother (on phone): My son has just burnt his hand very badly.
Doctor: I (come) at once.
13 Customer in restaurant: Waiter, this plate is dirty.
Waiter: I'm sorry, sir, I (bring) you another.
14 In a few years' time we all (live) in houses heated by solar energy.
15 Guest: May I use your phone to ring for a taxi?
Hostess: Oh, there's no need for that; my son (drive) you home.

THE FUTURE PERFECT

FORM

will + perfect infinitive

You will have worked

I will not have worked

Will he have worked?

Will she not have worked?

Contractions :

You'll have worked

I won't have worked

Won't she have worked?

USE

It is normally used with a time expression beginning with **by**: *by then, by that time, by the 24th*:

By the end of next month he will have been here for ten years.

It is used for an action which at a given future time will be in the past, or will just have finished. Imagine that it is 3 December and David is very worried about an exam that he is taking on 13 December.

I save £50 a month and I started in January. So by the end of the year I will have saved £600.

THE FUTURE PERFECT CONTINUOUS

FORM

will have been + present participle

You will have been working

I will not have been working

Will he have been working?

Will she not have been working?

Contractions :

You'll have been working

I won't have been working

Won't she have been working?

USE

Like the future perfect, it is normally used with a time expression beginning with **by**:

By the end of this year he'll have been acting for thirty years.

The future perfect continuous bears the same relationship to the future perfect as the present perfect continuous bears to the present perfect, i.e. the future perfect continuous can be used instead of the future perfect:

1 When the action is continuous:

By the end of the month he will have been living/working/studying here for ten years.

2 When the action is expressed as a continuous action:

By the end of the month he will have been training horses/climbing mountains for twenty years.

Exercise 1 : Put the verbs in brackets into the future perfect tense (all the forms)

- 1 In a fortnight's time we (take) our exam.
- 2 I (finish) this book by tomorrow evening.
- 3 By this time tomorrow we (have) our injections.
- 4 By the end of next year I (be) here twenty-five years.
- 5 I'll still be here next summer but Tom (leave).
- 6 I (finish) this job in twenty minutes.
- 7 By next winter they (build) four houses in that field.
- 8 When we reach Valparaiso we (sail) all round the world.
- 9 At the rate he is going he (spend) all his money by the time he is twenty-one.
- 10 By this time next year I (save) £250.
- 11 By the time we get to the party everything (be) eaten.
- 12 The train (leave) before we reach the station.

Exercise 2 : Make the future perfect continuous. Choose the positive, negative or question form:

1. I (work) all weekend so I won't be energetic on Sunday night.
2. How long (you / wait) when you finally get your exam results?
3. Julie (not / eat) much, so we'll need to make sure she has a good meal when she arrives.
4. How long (she / plan) to move house when she finally moves?
5. (she / wait) long by the time we get there?
6. (he / play) computer games for ten hours when he finally stops?
7. They (study) all day, so they'll want to go out in the evening.
8. They (not / stay) in the hotel for long when she arrives.
9. I (not / walk) when I meet you – I'll have been cycling.
10. She (play) squash, so she won't be dressed up.
11. We (look) at houses for four months next Tuesday.
12. We (not / do) this project for long when the inspector arrives.
13. How long (you / work) on this project when it is finished?
14. (you / buy) clothes when I see you?
15. He (not / do) much work, so he'll be happy to start a new project.

Exercise 3 : put the verb in brackets in the most suitable form, all sentences refer to future time.

1. If you arrive late to the party, the best food (go)
2. Don't come to my home at lunch time. I (watch) my favourite television programme then.
3. Be careful! The train (be) leave.
4. Please send me a text message as soon as she (get there. I can't wait to see her
5. Can I change my appointment for this afternoon please, because I (leave) tomorrow.
6. I've just checked the flight details and the plane (arrive) at 6pm.
7. Where you (buy) your new laptop? You should try the shop on the High Street.
8. When I (see) you tomorrow, I (show) you my new tattoo.
9. After you (take) a nap, you (feel) a lot better
10. I'm sorry but you need to stay in your room until you (finish) your work.
11. I (buy) the cigarettes from the corner shop when it (open).
12. I (let) you know the second I (find out) the outcome.
13. Before we (start) decorating the room, we (have) lunch
14. We (wait) in the shelter until the bus (come)
15. I'm very sorry Mr. Smith (not be) back in the clinic until 6.
16. I don't think you (have) any problems when you land in Boston.
17. By the time we get home, the football match (start).
18. In years time I (live) in a different country
19. When you get off the train, I (wait) for you outside near the carpark
20. (you take) your children with you to Spain
21. This time next week I (ski) in Italy!