

Future continuous

CEFR B1-B2 · 20 questions · A4 / US Letter

Will be plus -ing: the action in progress at a future moment, and the polite way to ask about plans.

The rule

The form: will be plus -ing

- Positive: subject plus will be plus the -ing form. "I will be working." "She will be sleeping."
- Negative: will not be plus the -ing form. "They will not be waiting for us."
- Question: Will plus subject plus be plus the -ing form. "Will she be joining us?"
- Short form: I'll be working, she'll be sleeping, they won't be waiting.
- The -ing part never changes, and no form of do appears anywhere in the sentence.

An action in progress at a future moment

- Use it with a specific future time: at eight tomorrow, this time next week, at noon on Friday.
- "At ten tomorrow, the team will be presenting the results." The presentation is in progress at ten.
- "This time next week, we will be lying on a beach." The holiday is the background of that moment.
- The tense shows the middle of the action, not its start or its end.

The future scene and future predictions

- Use it to describe a future background scene: "When you arrive, the children will be playing in the garden."
- Use it for predictions about what will be happening around us later: "In twenty years, most people will be driving electric cars."
- It also works for assumptions about now or later: "Do not call him now; he will be driving home."
- The action does not need to be long. The tense only says it is in progress at that moment.

Polite questions about plans

- Use the future continuous to ask about arrangements in a neutral, polite way: "Will you be using the car tonight?"
- It avoids the feeling of a favour: "Will you use the car tonight?" sounds more like a request for a decision.
- The same pattern checks on someone politely: "Will you be joining us for dinner?"
- The answer can be yes or no about the plan: "Yes, I will be using it until nine."

Choosing between the future forms

- Will plus base verb: a decision or an event seen as a fact. "I will call you at six."
- Future continuous: an action in progress at that time. "At six, I will be calling my mother, so I may be slow to answer."

- Going to: an intention or a plan. "I am going to call you tomorrow."
- Present continuous: a fixed arrangement. "I am calling the plumber tomorrow at nine."
- Stative verbs usually stay in the simple form: "I will know the result tomorrow", not "will be knowing".

Questions

Write your answer on the line under each question. Check your work with the answer key on the last page.

1. At nine tomorrow morning, I ___ in a meeting.

2. This time next week, we ___ on a beach.

3. Do not call at eight; I ___ dinner then.

4. What ___ you doing at six tonight?

5. They ___ the match at this time tomorrow.

6. At 7:30 tomorrow, she ___ to work.

7. I hope it ___ when we arrive.

8. The band ___ at the festival next Saturday.

9. Will you ___ the car tonight?

10. In ten years, most people ___ electric cars.

11. We ___ through Italy this time next month.

12. At midnight, the team ___ still working.

13. He cannot answer; he ___ a lecture at that time.

14. When you read this, I ___ across the Atlantic.

15. The children ___ when you come home.

16. This time tomorrow, I ___ for my exam.

17. Do not phone between seven and eight; we ___ our favourite show.

18. At five on Friday, I ___ my piano lesson.

19. I ___ not be sleeping at eight; I have a class.

20. ___ she be joining us for dinner?

Answer key

Future continuous · CEFR B1-B2

1. **will be sitting** — The meeting is in progress at nine, so the future continuous fits: will be sitting.
2. **will be lying** — The action is in progress at a future moment, so use will be lying.
3. **will be having** — Dinner is in progress at eight, so the future continuous explains the request: will be having.
4. **will** — The future continuous question begins with will: What will you be doing?
5. **will be watching** — The match is in progress at a future moment, so will be watching is correct.
6. **will be driving** — The journey is an action in progress at 7:30, so the future continuous fits: will be driving.
7. **will not be raining** — The negative future continuous is will not be plus -ing: will not be raining.
8. **will be playing** — The performance is an action in progress, so will be playing is the natural choice.
9. **be using** — The polite question about a plan uses will you be plus -ing: Will you be using the car?
10. **will be driving** — This predicts an activity in progress in the future, so the future continuous fits: will be driving.
11. **will be travelling** — The journey is in progress at the future moment: will be travelling.
12. **will be** — The future continuous needs will be before the -ing form: will be working.
13. **will be giving** — The lecture is in progress at the chosen moment, so will be giving is correct.
14. **will be flying** — The flight is in progress at the moment of reading: will be flying.
15. **will be sleeping** — The action will be in progress at the future moment, so use will be sleeping.
16. **will be studying** — Studying is the activity in progress at that future moment: will be studying.
17. **will be watching** — The show occupies the whole period, so the future continuous describes it: will be watching.
18. **will be taking** — The lesson is in progress at five, so the future continuous fits: will be taking.
19. **will** — The negative future continuous is will not be plus -ing: will not be sleeping.
20. **Will** — The future continuous question begins with will: Will she be joining us?