

Future perfect

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

Will have plus the past participle: what will already be finished before a deadline in the future.

The rule

The form: will have plus the past participle

- Positive: subject plus will have plus the past participle. "I will have finished." "She will have left."
- Negative: will not have plus the past participle. "They will not have arrived by then."
- Question: Will plus subject plus have plus the past participle. "Will you have finished by six?"
- Short forms: I'll have finished, she'll have left, we won't have arrived.
- The participle is the third form of the verb: finished, written, gone, seen, bought.

Completed before a future deadline

- Use it with by plus a time: "By nine, I will have cooked dinner."
- Use it with by the time plus a clause in the present: "By the time you arrive, I will have cooked dinner."
- Use it with before: "I will have read the book before the class starts."
- The action is complete at the future point. Whether it finished five minutes or five years earlier does not matter.

Not the same as the future continuous

- Future continuous: the action is in progress at the future moment. "At nine, I will be cooking dinner."
- Future perfect: the action is complete before the future moment. "By nine, I will have cooked dinner."
- Both can describe the same real situation, but they answer different questions: "what is happening?" versus "what is already done?".
- Use the continuous for the scene at a moment, and the perfect for the result waiting at a deadline.

Duration and repeated actions

- With for plus a period, the future perfect can measure how long something will have lasted: "By May, he will have worked here for a year."
- The future perfect continuous is also possible and stresses the activity: "will have been working here for a year".
- With a number of finished actions, the future perfect counts them: "By the end of the tour, we will have visited twelve cities."
- Choose the simpler form unless the length of the activity is the point.

Time clauses and common traps

- The clause after by the time stays in the present simple, never will: "By the time you get here, I will have

left."

- Do not use the future perfect for something still in progress at the deadline: "By eight, I will be watching the match", not "will have watched", if the match is still on.
- Irregular participles cause mistakes: gone, not went; seen, not saw; written, not wrote.
- In speech, the present perfect or going to often replaces the future perfect, but in exams and writing the future perfect is the precise choice.

Questions

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

1. By next June, I ___ my degree.

2. She ___ the whole book by Friday.

3. By 2050, scientists ___ a cure.

4. Will you ___ your homework by dinner?

5. By the time we arrive, they ___ the film.

6. By next month, he ___ here for ten years.

7. I ___ the report before the meeting starts.

8. They ___ the bridge by the end of the year.

9. By the time you call, I ___ the office.

10. By noon, she ___ the email.

11. ___ you have finished the project by Friday?

12. By the time the guests arrive, we ___ everything.

13. In two years, he ___ enough money to buy a car.

14. By 8 p.m., the train ___ the capital.

15. I ___ all the emails by the time you get back.

16. Will they ___ the results before Monday?

17. By the end of the tour, we ___ twelve cities.

18. She hopes she ___ her driving test by May.

19. By the time the sun rises, we ___ the whole journey.

20. The builders ___ the roof before winter comes.

Answer key

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1. **will have finished** — The degree is complete before the future deadline in June, so the future perfect is correct: will have finished.
2. **will have read** — By Friday marks the point after the reading is complete: will have read.
3. **will have found** — The future perfect describes a result complete before a future year: will have found.
4. **have finished** — The future perfect question uses will you have plus the participle: Will you have finished?
5. **will have started** — The film starts before our arrival, so the future perfect looks back from the arrival: will have started.
6. **will have worked** — For plus a period measures how long the job will have lasted by next month: will have worked.
7. **will have written** — The report is complete before the meeting, so the future perfect fits: will have written.
8. **will have built** — By the end of the year marks the deadline after the building is complete: will have built.
9. **will have left** — The leaving is complete before the call, so use the future perfect: will have left.
10. **will not have sent** — The negative future perfect is will not have plus the participle: will not have sent.
11. **Will** — The future perfect question begins with will: Will you have finished?
12. **will have prepared** — The preparation is complete before the guests arrive: will have prepared.
13. **will have saved** — The saving is complete by that future point, so the future perfect fits: will have saved.
14. **will have reached** — By 8 p.m. marks the point after the arrival is complete: will have reached.
15. **will have answered** — The emails are complete before you get back, so use will have answered.
16. **have announced** — The future perfect question needs have plus the participle: Will they have announced?
17. **will have visited** — The future perfect counts the visits completed before the end of the tour: will have visited.
18. **will have passed** — By May is the deadline the passing must beat, so the future perfect fits: will have passed.
19. **will have completed** — The journey is complete before sunrise, so use will have completed.
20. **will have repaired** — The repair finishes before winter, so the future perfect is correct: will have repaired.