

GRAMMAR · LESSON 09 · B1

This time tomorrow, I'll be sleeping.

By this time next year, I'll have moved.

Future Continuous & Future Perfect — two lenses, one future

Two futures that zoom in. **Future Continuous** drops you inside an action at a future moment; the action is happening. **Future Perfect** stands after a future moment and looks back; the action is done. Learn which belongs where — and why it matters.

50 min

FC + FP

CEFR B1

Ages 11-16

What you'll learn

- Form **Future Continuous** (will be + -ing) for actions in progress at a future moment.
- Form **Future Perfect** (will have + past participle) for actions completed before a future point.
- Choose the right tense by reading time-marker signals: *this time tomorrow* vs *by next year*.

1

WARM-UP · 4 MIN

Imagine a specific future moment

Close your eyes for two seconds. Picture it. Some questions ask what you **will be doing** at a future moment; others ask what you **will have done** before then.

- | | |
|----|---|
| Q1 | This time tomorrow, where will you be? What will you be doing? |
| Q2 | By the end of this week, what will you have finished? (Homework? A book? A show?) |
| Q3 | In five years, at 8 p.m. on a random Saturday, what will you be doing? Be specific. |
| Q4 | By the age of 25, what do you hope you will have achieved? |

2

GRAMMAR FOCUS · 18 MIN

Two lenses for the future

Both tenses describe future time, but each shows a different **view**. **Future Continuous** drops you inside an action at a future moment — the moment is happening, the verb is continuing. **Future Perfect** shows you an action finished before a future moment — the point arrives, and the verb is

already done.

| | |
|---|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">FUTURE CONTINUOUS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">will be + verb-ing</p> <p>When: an action in progress at a specific future moment.</p> <p><i>This time tomorrow, I'll be flying to Madrid.</i></p> <p>Test: Could you take a photo and see the action?</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">FUTURE PERFECT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">will have + past participle</p> <p>When: an action finished before a specific future moment.</p> <p><i>By 9 p.m., I'll have arrived in Madrid.</i></p> <p>Test: Will it be ticked off the list?</p> |
|---|---|

☐ Sunday at 14:00 — one timeline, two tenses

| Now · Friday | Sun 12:00 | Sun 14:00 | Sun 15:00 |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Nora packs her suitcase | She'll be flying (FC — in progress) | The future moment we're talking about | She'll have landed (FP — finished) |

↳ Six uses — three for each tense

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| FC · Use 1 | <p>In progress at a specific future time</p> <p><i>At 10 tomorrow, we'll be sitting the English exam.</i></p> |
| FC · Use 2 | <p>Actions that last a while in the future</p> <p><i>Next month she'll be travelling around Japan for three weeks.</i></p> |
| FC · Use 3 | <p>Polite questions about plans</p> <p><i>Will you be using the car tonight? (= can I borrow it?)</i></p> |
| FP · Use 1 | <p>Completed before a specific future time</p> <p><i>By Friday, I'll have finished all my homework.</i></p> |
| FP · Use 2 | <p>Duration or amount reached by a future point</p> <p><i>In June she'll have lived in Paris for exactly ten years.</i></p> |
| FP · Use 3 | <p>After "by the time..." — one finishes before another</p> <p><i>By the time you get home, I'll have cooked dinner.</i></p> |

↔ Same day, different view

The same situation can take either tense — but the meaning shifts from **inside** to **after** the action:

At 8 p.m., I'll be watching the match.

In front of the screen, mid-match.

This time next week, we'll be sunbathing in Crete.

Sun, sand, mid-holiday.

In two hours, Nora will be revising.

Pencil moving, notes open.

By 10 p.m., I'll have watched the match.

The match is over — I know the score.

By next month, we'll have visited three Greek islands.

Three islands completed.

By Monday, Nora will have revised every chapter.

Revision is done.

⚙ Time markers — they usually tell you which tense

FUTURE CONTINUOUS SIGNALS

this time tomorrow • this time next week • at 8 p.m. • all day tomorrow • in an hour • when you arrive (“I’ll be cooking”)

FUTURE PERFECT SIGNALS

by Monday • by 2030 • by the end of • by the time... • before you arrive • in ten years (for duration)

⚠ Three classic B1 mistakes

- ❑ ~~This time tomorrow, I will sleep.~~ ❑ **This time tomorrow, I'll be sleeping.** (*This time → moment in progress → FC.*)
- ❑ ~~By next year, I'll finish my novel.~~ ❑ **By next year, I'll have finished my novel.** (*By + time → before that time → FP.*)
- ❑ ~~When you arrive, I will have cooking.~~ ❑ **When you arrive, I'll be cooking.** (*FC = will be + -ing, not will have + -ing.*)

3

KEY VOCABULARY · 6 MIN

Ten words for futures and milestones

| Word | POS | Meaning | Example |
|---------------------------|--------------|---|---|
| achieve | <i>v</i> | to succeed in doing something difficult | <i>By 30 she hopes to have achieved a lot in her career.</i> |
| milestone | <i>n</i> | an important point or moment | <i>Finishing school will be a huge milestone.</i> |
| to graduate | <i>v</i> | to finish school or university | <i>She'll have graduated by next summer.</i> |
| goal | <i>n</i> | something you want to achieve | <i>My main goal is to learn three languages.</i> |
| meanwhile | <i>adv</i> | at the same time as something else | <i>We'll be revising; meanwhile, he'll be playing football.</i> |
| eventually | <i>adv</i> | in the end, after some time | <i>Eventually, I'll have saved enough money.</i> |
| to picture | <i>v</i> | to imagine something in your mind | <i>Picture yourself in five years — what will you be doing?</i> |
| determined | <i>adj</i> | wanting to do something very much | <i>She is determined to have published a book by 20.</i> |
| in the meantime | <i>phr</i> | during the period between now and then | <i>The show starts at 8; in the meantime, let's eat.</i> |
| to look forward to | <i>phr v</i> | to feel excited about a future event | <i>I'm looking forward to this time next week.</i> |

4

READING · 12 MIN

Dear Future Me

THE PULSE · ISSUE 11
LETTERS TO THE FUTURE

Dear *Future Me*

For a school project, Nora in Istanbul wrote a letter to herself one year in the future. She didn't expect it to be so hard. "I kept writing 'will' and then crossing it out," she said. Four other teens did the same.

N

Nora, 15

Istanbul · Türkiye

"Don't tell me about the future. Tell me about one moment."

At midday this Sunday, exactly fifty-two weeks from now, where will Nora be? What will she be doing? This is the question her English teacher asked a class of fifteen-year-olds in Istanbul. "Don't tell me about 'the future'," he said. "Tell me about one moment in the future. Be specific." Nora wrote: "This time next year, I **will be sitting** in the exam room at my old primary school, holding a pencil, trying to remember how to do trigonometry."

She continued: "By that moment, I **will have revised** every maths chapter at least three times. I **will have slept** maybe four hours the night before. My mother **will have made** me breakfast, even though I won't eat it — she'll try anyway. My little brother **will probably be watching** cartoons in the kitchen, and our cat **will be sitting** on my chemistry notes, because he always **sits** on whatever is most important."

Notice the pattern. When Nora pictures a specific moment in the future and describes the actions happening **inside** that moment — sitting, holding, watching — she uses **Future Continuous**. When she talks about actions that **will be finished** before that moment — revising, sleeping, making breakfast — she uses **Future Perfect**. One tense zooms inside the action; the other stands after it and looks back.

Her letter continued further. "By the age of eighteen, I **will have finished** high school. By twenty, I **will have moved** to university, maybe in Izmir, maybe in Ankara. By twenty-five, I **will have lived** abroad for at least one year." And then, smaller, in the corner: "This time in ten years, on a random evening in November, at about 8 p.m., I **will be cooking** dinner in a small flat, listening to music my parents wouldn't recognise, and thinking, for one second, about this Sunday in 2026. Hi, past me."

... FOUR MORE LETTERS ...

K Kian, 14 · Dublin · Ireland

Exchange year

Next September, Kian **will be spending** a year in Osaka. "This time next year, I **will be eating** breakfast with a family I haven't met yet, trying not to drop rice with chopsticks." By the time he returns, he **will have studied** Japanese for eighteen months. He **will have missed** one full school year in Dublin. "But by June next year, I **will have learned** to read a Tokyo metro map. That, for me, is the real exam."

I Ibtisam, 16 · Casablanca · Morocco

Medicine dream

Ibtisam wants to be a doctor. "By the time I'm twenty-five, I **will have finished** medical school, I **will have chosen** my speciality, and — this is the hardest one — I **will have delivered** my first baby." But she knows the road is long. "This time in ten years, late on a Tuesday night, I **will probably be studying** in a hospital library. Not glamorous. I'm fine with that."

M Matteo, 15 · Turin · Italy

Robotics final

In six weeks, Matteo's school team **will be competing** in the European Robotics Final in Prague. "This time in six weeks, at 3 p.m. on a Saturday, I **will be standing** next to our robot, probably sweating, probably holding a screwdriver." By the day of the final, the team **will have built** and rebuilt the robot four times. They **will have slept** in the workshop for at least one weekend. "Win or lose, we **will have done** it properly."

A Aiyana, 13 · Vancouver · Canada

First film festival

Aiyana made a short film about her grandmother's garden. "In March, this time next year, I **will be sitting** in a real cinema in Montreal, watching my own film on a big screen." By then she **will have edited** the film seventeen times. She **will have shown** it to exactly three people before the festival: her grandmother, her teacher, and her best friend. "When the lights **go down**, I **will be holding** my grandmother's hand."

Future Continuous (in progress)

Future Perfect (finished before)

Present Simple (general truth)

5

PRACTICE · 8 MIN

8 quick choices

Choose the correct option (A, B or C). Answers on the last page.

| | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Don't call me at 7 — I ___ dinner with my grandparents. · A) will have B) will be having C) will have had |
| 2 | By the end of 2030, I ___ university. · A) will finish B) will be finishing C) will have finished |
| 3 | This time next month, we ___ around southern Italy. · A) will be travelling B) will have travelled C) travel |
| 4 | By the time you arrive, I ___ dinner — don't worry, just come. · A) will cook B) will have cooked C) will be cooking |
| 5 | At 3 p.m. tomorrow, Matteo ___ his robotics presentation. · A) will have done B) does C) will be giving |
| 6 | Next June, Ibtisam ___ her A-levels. Exam month. · A) will be sitting B) will have sat C) sits |
| 7 | By September, Kian ___ Japanese for almost a year. · A) will be studying B) will have studied C) studies |
| 8 | ___ the car tonight? I'd like to borrow it if you're not. · A) Will you use B) Have you used C) Will you be using |

6

SPEAKING · 5 MIN

Your specific future

Work with a partner. Use **Future Continuous** for the moment and **Future Perfect** for what you'll have done before it. Be specific with times and details.

Q
1

Describe yourself at 9 p.m. this Saturday. What will you be doing?

Q
2

By the end of this school year, what will you have finished?

Q
3

Picture yourself ten years from now on a random Tuesday evening — what will you be doing?

Q
4

By the age of 30, what do you hope you will have achieved? Name three things.

Q
5

This time next year, where will you be? Who will you be with?

Model dialogue

Eva: Where *will you be* this time next year?

Luca: I *'ll be studying* in the Netherlands. Probably in a cold library.

Eva: And by 25, what *will you have done*?

Luca: I *'ll have graduated*, I *'ll have lived* in two countries, and I hope I *'ll have visited* Japan.

Eva: What about right now — at 3 p.m. tomorrow?

Luca: Easy. I *'ll be finishing* this English lesson.

7 WRITING · 10 MIN

"Dear future me"

Write a short letter (**80 to 100 words**) to yourself one year from now. Describe **one specific moment** with Future Continuous, and list **two or three things** you will have done by then with Future Perfect. End with one thing you're looking forward to.

Include: 1 FC moment 2-3 FP achievements clear time markers 80-100 words

Word count: _____ / 80-100

8

COMPREHENSION QUIZ · 6 MIN

10 questions — let's see what stuck

Circle the best option (A, B, C or D) for each question.

| | |
|----|--|
| 1 | This time next Sunday, I ___ on a beach in Antalya. · A) will lie B) will be lying C) will have lain D) lie |
| 2 | By the time the film starts, we ___ our popcorn. · A) will buy B) will be buying C) will have bought D) buy |
| 3 | Don't worry — at 8 tomorrow evening, Sara ___ for her exam. · A) will have revised B) will be revising C) revises D) has been revising |
| 4 | In two years, my brother ___ his master's degree. · A) will be finishing B) will have finished C) finishes D) is going to finish |
| 5 | ___ anywhere near the library tomorrow? Could you return my book? · A) Will you be going B) Will you have gone C) Do you go D) Will you have been going |
| 6 | By this time next month, we ___ in our new apartment for two weeks. · A) will be living B) will have been C) will have lived D) live |
| 7 | When you wake up tomorrow, I ___ halfway to Madrid. · A) will drive B) will be driving C) will have driven D) drive |
| 8 | By the time he's 30, Matteo ___ in three different countries. · A) will be living B) will live C) will have lived D) lives |
| 9 | I can't meet at 3 on Friday — I ___ a driving lesson between 2:30 and 4. · A) will have B) will be having C) will have had D) have |
| 10 | By the end of this lesson, you ___ ten questions about two future tenses. · A) will answer B) will be answering C) will have answered D) answer |



ANSWER KEYS

Check your answers

Practice · Part 5

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---|
| 1 | B — will be having | <i>Action in progress at a specific time → FC.</i> |
| 2 | C — will have finished | <i>"By + future time" = before that moment → FP.</i> |
| 3 | A — will be travelling | <i>"This time next month" = future moment in progress → FC.</i> |
| 4 | B — will have cooked | <i>"By the time" = finished before that point → FP.</i> |
| 5 | C — will be giving | <i>Clock time + action happening then → FC.</i> |
| 6 | A — will be sitting | <i>Extended future period → FC.</i> |
| 7 | B — will have studied | <i>Duration reached by a future point → FP.</i> |
| 8 | C — will you be using | <i>Polite question about future plans → FC.</i> |

Quiz · Part 8

| | | |
|----|-------------------------------|--|
| 1 | B — will be lying | <i>A future moment in progress → FC.</i> |
| 2 | C — will have bought | <i>"By the time" + finished action → FP.</i> |
| 3 | B — will be revising | <i>Specific clock time + in progress → FC.</i> |
| 4 | B — will have finished | <i>"In + period" for completion → FP.</i> |
| 5 | A — Will you be going | <i>Polite question about plans → FC.</i> |
| 6 | C — will have lived | <i>Duration up to a future point → FP.</i> |
| 7 | B — will be driving | <i>Specific future moment + action in progress → FC.</i> |
| 8 | C — will have lived | <i>Total life experience by a future point → FP.</i> |
| 9 | B — will be having | <i>Action happening across a time range → FC.</i> |
| 10 | C — will have answered | <i>"By the end of" = completed before → FP.</i> |

Brilliant work finishing Lesson 09! You now hold two of English's most powerful future tools: *Future Continuous* for the moment you're inside, and *Future Perfect* for everything you've already done by then. In **Lesson 10**, we switch from time to ability — *can, could, be able to* — three ways to talk about what you are able to do at different points in your life.