

# Future Perfect Progressive

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# Grammar Notes

## A. The Future Perfect Progressive

The future perfect progressive (also called the *future perfect continuous*) is used when we need to discuss two future actions, where the first action continues to the second action.

The future perfect progressive is not commonly used in English because we don't usually need to imagine such a specific future situation, but it is needed occasionally in speaking and writing.

Tense	Future Perfect Progressive
Diagram	
Form	will + have + been + -ing verb (present participle)
Function	Two actions will occur in the future. The first (long) action continues to the second (short) action.
Time Markers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>by the time</li> <li>when</li> <li>before</li> </ul> <small>(Note that <i>for</i> is also commonly used to indicate the duration of the first action.)</small>
Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We <b>will have been negotiating</b> for three weeks by the time we reach an agreement.</li> <li>When he resigns, he <b>will have been working</b> here for 18 years.</li> <li>I <b>will have been studying</b> for two hours before she calls me.</li> </ul>

### Note #1

In English, the future form is almost never used twice in a sentence. The independent clause takes the future form, and the dependent clause takes the **simple present** (even though the meaning is still a future time). In fact, with the future perfect and the future perfect progressive tenses, the simple present verb is *even further* in the future!

Remember that the dependent clause can come before or after the independent clause. When it comes before the independent clause, a comma is needed.

- She will have been talking for two hours **by the time he needs the phone.**
- **By the time he needs the phone,** she will have been talking for two hours.

## Grammar Notes cont.

### A. The Future Perfect Progressive cont.

#### Note #2

Sometimes the dependent clause is just an adverb phrase of time and not a complete sentence with a present verb. Because these phrases indicate a future time, they are often used with the future perfect progressive. Examples of typical phrases include *by this time next month*, *by July 2028*, *by 6:00 tomorrow*, etc.

- **By this time next month**, I will have been working on this project for 11 months.
- **By the year 2030**, she will have been living there for a long, long time.
- **By 10:00 am on Friday**, they will have been mulling over the problem for 48 hours.

#### Note #3

This verb tense has four parts to it! Here's how it is formed:

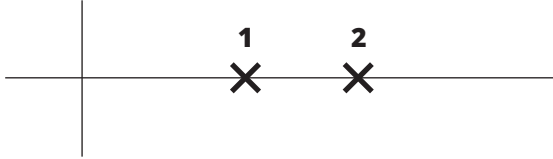
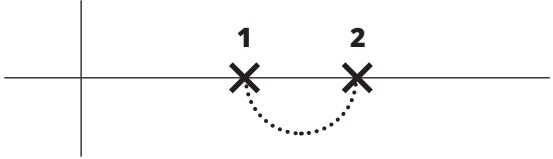
1. **Future Perfect** = will + have + past participle (e.g., *will have studied*)
2. **Progressive** = be + -ing verb (e.g., *be studying*)
3. **The Past Participle of Be** (the first part of the progressive form) = been
4. **Final Result** = will + have + been + -ing verb

<b>Future Perfect</b>	will +	have +	past participle	
<b>Progressive</b>	↓	↓	be +	-ing verb
<b>Future Perfect Progressive</b>	will +	have +	been +	-ing verb
<b>Example</b>	I will have been studying.			

## Grammar Notes cont.

### B. The Future Perfect Vs. The Future Perfect Progressive

How can we tell when the future perfect tense is required instead of the future perfect progressive? With the future perfect, two future actions happen at different times in the future. The first action is finished before the second one occurs. Compare these two tenses in the chart below.

Tense	Future Perfect	Future Perfect Progressive
Diagram		
Form	will + have + past participle	will + have + been + -ing verb
Function	The first future action will <b>finish</b> before the second future action.	The first future action will <b>continue</b> until the second future action.
Time Markers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>by the time</li> <li>when</li> <li>before</li> </ul> (Note: The typical future markers <i>next</i> and <i>tomorrow</i> are often additionally used.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>by the time</li> <li>when</li> <li>before</li> </ul> (Note: The typical progressive marker <i>for</i> is also commonly used.)
Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I <b>will have finished</b> dinner by the time she calls me tonight.</li> <li>By the time my teacher quizzes us tomorrow, I <b>will have memorized</b> all the facts.</li> <li>That student <b>will have graduated</b> before he gets his essay back next week.</li> <li>You <b>will</b> already <b>have left</b> when he gets home from his trip.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I <b>will have been studying</b> for two hours by the time she calls me tonight.</li> <li>By the time she comes over, my kids <b>will have been sleeping</b> for an hour.</li> <li>When I move to Vancouver next July, my best friend <b>will have been living</b> there for two years already.</li> <li>They <b>will have been hanging out</b> at the bar for hours before I join them.</li> </ul>

# Exercise 1

## FILL IN THE BLANKS

Write the future perfect progressive form of the verbs in parentheses.

Ex. By the time he arrives, I will have been cleaning for an hour.  
 (clean)

1. She \_\_\_\_\_ for weeks before she feels confident about next month's test.  
 (study)

2. They \_\_\_\_\_ for nine hours by 8:00 am tomorrow.  
 (sleep)

3. By the time you call, I \_\_\_\_\_ all afternoon.  
 (bake)

4. We \_\_\_\_\_ for 45 minutes when you join us.  
 (jog)

5. \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ all day by the time I come over?  
 (prepare)

6. My coworker \_\_\_\_\_ here for six years by July 2021.  
 (work)

7. By the time she gets back, her parents \_\_\_\_\_ about her for days.  
 (worry)

8. By 5:00 pm, we \_\_\_\_\_ for three hours.  
 (negotiate)

9. By the time he gets organized, they \_\_\_\_\_ around for ages.  
 (wait)

10. When my boss finally hires someone new, I \_\_\_\_\_ two jobs for at least six months.  
 (do)

## Exercise 2

### FIND THE ERROR

Find one error in each sentence and correct it on the line below.

Ex. By 7:00, we will have studying for 90 minutes.

*By 7:00, we will have been studying for 90 minutes.*

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1. By the time the meeting over, they will have been sitting since 9:00 am.

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2. Christina will have been traveling for two years before she will return home.

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3. By this time next year, I will have learning English for five years.

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4. He will has been watching TV all morning before his girlfriend arrives.

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5. Keiko will have being listening to music for hours when I get home tonight.

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6. My friend will have been practicing the guitar since 15 years by 2028.

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7. By the time my neighbor come over, I will have been reading for half an hour.

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8. We will have been driving around for hours before he will ask for directions.

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## Exercise 3

### FUTURE PERFECT PROGRESSIVE SENTENCES

Write sentences using the future perfect progressive tense. The first sentence should start with a dependent clause, and the second should start with an independent clause. Watch your punctuation.

Ex. June 2026 / Maria / study / English / five years

*By June 2026, Maria will have been studying English for five years.*

*Maria will have been studying English for five years by June 2026.*

1. 8:00 pm / Michelle / wait / boyfriend / two hours

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2. You / graduate / you / attend / university / four years

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3. Next Monday / Sergio / practice / his speech / 11 days

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4. She / go / the interview / she / look / new job / three weeks

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5. Our band / perform / we / rehearse / months

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6. Next June / Phillip / practice / karate / ten years

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## Exercise 4

### FUTURE PERFECT VS. FUTURE PERFECT PROGRESSIVE

Write the verbs in parentheses in the future perfect or future perfect progressive tense.

Ex. By the time you go to Europe, the package will have arrived.  
(arrive)

1. Before she leaves, I hope she \_\_\_\_\_ all my questions.  
(answer)
2. They \_\_\_\_\_ to get online for hours by the time the Wi-Fi is fixed.  
(try)
3. Mr. Smith \_\_\_\_\_ by the time I get back.  
(lock up)
4. Marco \_\_\_\_\_ sick for two days by the time his prescription comes in.  
(be)
5. My neighbor \_\_\_\_\_ all morning by the time I come home for lunch.  
(garden)
6. By the time they walk in, everything \_\_\_\_\_.  
(organize)
7. \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ eating when I come over?  
(finish)
8. By this time next month, our team \_\_\_\_\_ on the project for over a year.  
(work)
9. By the time the counselor sees me, I \_\_\_\_\_ here for over an hour.  
(sit)
10. They \_\_\_\_\_ the invitations by this time next week.  
(send)

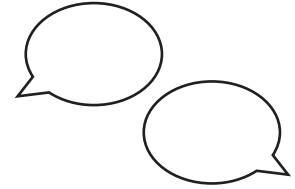


# Exercise 5

## PAIR WORK

### A. Role-Play

Imagine you and your partner are siblings. Your grandmother is coming over to visit next Friday. You find this very inconvenient because you are busy. Takes turns complaining to each other about what your grandma will be interrupting when she arrives (use future perfect progressive verbs). Then think of things you can get done before she comes over (use future perfect verbs).

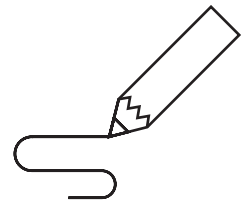


#### Examples:

- When Grandma arrives, I will only have been studying for an hour. That's not enough time to prepare for my test tomorrow!
- By the time Grandma arrives, I think I will have finished my homework. At least I won't have to worry about doing it after she leaves.

### B. Write & Share

Now write down several of the ideas that you and your partner came up with. Then share them with the class.



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## Exercise 6

### QUIZ

Circle the correct verb tense for each sentence.

- By the time she \_\_\_\_\_, he will already have gone to bed.
  - call
  - calls
  - will call
  - will have called
- By the time you wake me up, I \_\_\_\_\_ for nine hours.
  - am sleeping
  - will sleep
  - will have been sleeping
  - will have been slept
- Andre \_\_\_\_\_ for an hour before his alarm goes off.
  - will has worked out
  - will worked out
  - will has been working out
  - will have been working out
- We won't have signed the contracts by the time the meeting \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ends
  - is ending
  - will end
  - will have ended
- My sister will have been helping our mother out for two weeks before it \_\_\_\_\_ my turn.
  - will have been
  - be
  - is
  - will be
- By the time my son finishes all the food on his plate, it \_\_\_\_\_ cold.
  - will have gone
  - will been going
  - will be going
  - will have going
- Before I send this email, she \_\_\_\_\_ every word.
  - will have checked
  - checks
  - will checks
  - will have been checking
- By July 2025, you \_\_\_\_\_ French for 15 years.
  - will study
  - will have been studying
  - will be studying
  - study
- They \_\_\_\_\_ before next summer.
  - will have been graduating
  - graduate
  - is graduating
  - will have graduated
- The contest \_\_\_\_\_ over for days by the time he gets around to submitting his entry.
  - will have being
  - is
  - will have been
  - will have been being

# Answer Key

### LESSON DESCRIPTION:

In this lesson, students learn how and when to use the future perfect progressive tense in English. It also includes exercises that combine the future perfect and future perfect progressive tenses.

**LEVEL:** Adv

**TIME:** 2 hours

**TAGS:** future perfect, future perfect progressive, simple present, verbs, verb tenses, mixed tenses, grammar, grammar exercises

## Exercise 1

- |                              |                               |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. will have been studying   | 6. will have been working     |
| 2. will have been sleeping   | 7. will have been worrying    |
| 3. will have been baking     | 8. will have been negotiating |
| 4. will have been jogging    | 9. will have been waiting     |
| 5. Will, have been preparing | 10. will have been doing      |

## Exercise 2

- By the time the meeting **is** over, they will have been sitting since 9:00 am.
- Christina will have been traveling for two years before she **returns** home.
- By this time next year, I will have **been** learning English for five years.
- He will **have** been watching TV all morning before his girlfriend arrives.
- Keiko will have **been** listening to music for hours when I get home tonight.
- My friend will have been practicing the guitar **for** 15 years by 2028.
- By the time my neighbor **comes** over, I will have been reading for half an hour.
- We will have been driving around for hours before he **asks** for directions.

## Exercise 3

Time markers may vary.

- By 8:00 pm, Michelle will have been waiting for her boyfriend for two hours. / Michelle will have been waiting for her boyfriend for two hours by 8:00 pm.
- Before you graduate, you will have been attending university for four years. / You will have been attending university for four years before you graduate.
- By next Monday, Sergio will have been practicing his speech for 11 days. / Sergio will have been practicing his speech for 11 days by next Monday.
- By the time she goes to the interview, she will have been looking for a new job for three weeks. / She will have been looking for a new job for three weeks by the time she goes to the interview.
- By the time our band performs, we will have been rehearsing for months. / We will have been rehearsing for months by the time our band performs.
- By next June, Phillip will have been practicing karate for ten years. / Phillip will have been practicing karate for ten years by next June.

*(continued on the next page...)*

## Answer Key cont.

### Exercise 4

- |                             |                               |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. will have answered       | 6. will have been organized** |
| 2. will have been trying    | 7. Will, have finished        |
| 3. will have locked up      | 8. will have been working     |
| 4. will have been*          | 9. will have been sitting     |
| 5. will have been gardening | 10. will have sent            |

\*Remind students that non-action verbs like “be” almost never take a progressive form. For a review of non-action verbs, see our Grammar & Usage Resource: <https://esllibrary.com/resources/2329>

\*\*Point out that this is the future perfect **passive** form. For a review of the passive voice, try our Grammar Practice Worksheets lesson: <https://esllibrary.com/courses/88/lessons/1601>

### Exercise 5

Answers will vary.

### Exercise 6

1. b) calls
2. c) will have been sleeping
3. d) will have been working out
4. a) ends
5. c) is
6. a) will have gone
7. a) will have checked
8. b) will have been studying
9. d) will have graduated
10. c) will have been

### SPELLING NOTE:

This lesson shows the American spelling of the words *Traveling*, *Counselor*, *Neighbor*, and *Practice*. Most other English-speaking countries spell these words this way: *Travelling*, *Counsellor*, *Neighbour*, and *Practise* (as a verb; *Practice* as a noun). Make it a challenge for your students to find these words in the lesson and see if they know the alternate spellings.

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

If your students need more practice with the future perfect tense, try our Grammar Practice Worksheets lesson: <https://www.esllibrary.com/courses/88/lessons/1614>