

# Future Perfect

## Table of Contents

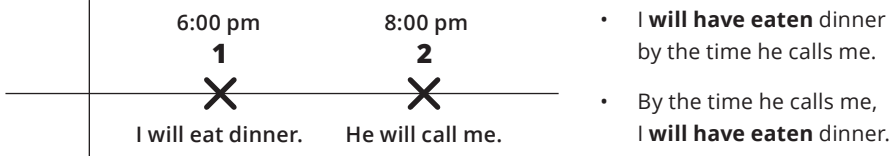
<b>2</b>	<b>Grammar Notes</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Exercise 1</b> Fill in the Blanks
<b>5</b>	<b>Exercise 2</b> You're Too Late!
<b>6</b>	<b>Exercise 3</b> Sentence Formation
<b>7</b>	<b>Exercise 4</b> Pair Work
<b>8</b>	<b>Exercise 5</b> My Goals
<b>9</b>	<b>Exercise 6</b> Mixed Tenses
<b>11</b>	<b>Exercise 7</b> Quiz
<b>12</b>	<b>Answer Key</b>

# Grammar Notes

## FUTURE PERFECT

### A. Introduction

The future perfect is used to talk about two actions that will occur at two different times in the future. In a future perfect sentence, the first action uses the *future perfect* tense and the second action (further into the future) uses the *simple present* tense.

<b>Future Perfect</b>	
<b>Diagram</b>	
<b>Form</b>	will + have + past participle
<b>Function</b>	one future action will happen before another future action
<b>Time Markers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• by the time</li> <li>• when</li> <li>• before</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">(Note that other time markers such as <i>next</i>, <i>tomorrow</i>, and <i>from now</i> are often used in the dependent clause.)</p>
<b>Examples</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our manager <b>will have gone home</b> by the time we finish this project.</li> <li>• By the time he moves to Seattle, he <b>will have quit</b> his job.</li> <li>• When she gets back to me next week, I <b>will have made</b> other plans.</li> <li>• They'll <b>have handed out</b> five dozen fliers before they call it a night.</li> <li>• Uni <b>will</b> already <b>have accepted</b> another job offer when they get back to her two weeks from now.</li> </ul>

## Grammar Notes cont.

### B. Notes

#### Note #1

When the dependent (time) clause begins the sentence, we usually use a comma. We don't need a comma when the independent clause begins the sentence. There is no change in meaning.

- **By the time the conference ends,** I will have spoken to more than 50 people.
- I will have spoken to more than 50 people **by the time the conference ends.**

#### Note #2

Instead of a dependent clause, we can use an adverb phrase of time (note that a phrase has no subject or verb). Examples of typical phrases include *by July 2030*, *by 9:00 tomorrow night*, *two months from now*, etc.

- They will have completed construction on the new building **three months from now.**
- **By 5:00 pm tomorrow,** we will have wrapped up the negotiations and finalized the deal.

#### Note #3

A future perfect action can be repeated, or there could be multiple actions before the final one.

- **I'll have gone to the gym hundreds of times** before it closes next December.
- **They will have cleaned their condo and prepared all the food** by the time their guests arrive at 8:00 pm.

#### Note #4

The future perfect is not as common as the simple future. In fact, we can often use the simple future instead of the future perfect, especially in informal situations (mostly when a time marker other than "by the time" is used). There is often no change in meaning.

- I **will have turned off** all the lights before I leave the house.
- I **will turn off** all the lights before I leave the house. (*more common*)

# Exercise 1

## FILL IN THE BLANKS

Write the future perfect or simple present tense of the verbs below.

- Ex. By the time Min Jun gets to the theater, the movie will have started .  
(start)
1. By the time Sonya finishes work, her boyfriend \_\_\_\_\_ dinner.  
(make)
  2. Malik \_\_\_\_\_ his third week on the job by this time next Tuesday.  
(complete)
  3. When Daniel \_\_\_\_\_ work, everyone will already have left the office.  
(wrap up)
  4. I \_\_\_\_\_ to bed before my wife gets home tonight.  
(go)
  5. The baseball field will have become muddy by the time it \_\_\_\_\_ raining.  
(stop)
  6. By the time Adrian heads home, the sun \_\_\_\_\_ .  
(set)
  7. Mariam \_\_\_\_\_ her degree by next May.  
(earn)
  8. They will have traveled around the world by the time they \_\_\_\_\_ in Thailand.  
(arrive)
  9. By the time she finishes studying tonight, her brother \_\_\_\_\_ asleep.  
(fall)
  10. Aisha \_\_\_\_\_ her sales training by November.  
(finish)
  11. Mateo and Lola \_\_\_\_\_ from their trip before their son's 18th birthday.  
(return)
  12. All the schools will have closed by the time it \_\_\_\_\_ later this afternoon.  
(snow)
  13. By the time your plane lands, I \_\_\_\_\_ at the airport to pick you up.  
(arrive)
  14. The lecture will have already started by the time Keiko and Ren \_\_\_\_\_ to class.  
(get)
  15. We \_\_\_\_\_ the heavy lifting by the time you get here.  
(do)

## Exercise 2

### YOU'RE TOO LATE!

Imagine you have a friend who's always late. Use the future perfect and the following prompts to give advice or warnings to your friend.

Ex. By the time you apply for the job... (someone else / get)

*By the time you apply for the job, someone else will have gotten it.*

---

1. By the time you get to the stadium... (concert / start)

---

2. By the time you get to the party... (everyone / eat / all the food)

---

3. By the time you call your mother back... (she / angry / for weeks)

---

4. By the time you join a gym... (out of shape / for months)

---

5. By the time you go apartment-hunting... (everyone / rent / good places)

---

6. By the time you hand in your homework... (teacher / already / correct / everyone else's assignments)

---

7. By the time you go to the doctor... (rash / get worse)

---

8. By the time you go to the hospital to visit your friend... (she / go home)

---

9. By the time you arrive at the restaurant... (your friends / leave)

---

10. By the time you do the dishes... (mold / grow)

---

## Exercise 3

### SENTENCE FORMATION

Write future perfect sentences based on the following information.

Ex. Next Tuesday at 5:00 pm, I will leave work.  
Next Tuesday at 6:00 pm, my brother's flight will arrive.

*By the time my brother's flight arrives, I will have left work.*

---

1. Next summer, Pavel will graduate. Next fall, Pavel will visit his relatives in Russia.

---

2. Tomorrow at 5:00 pm, Amalia will take her cat to the vet.  
Tomorrow at 4:00 pm, Amalia will finish work.

---

3. Next Wednesday at 1:00 pm, Jae will take his psychology exam.  
Next Wednesday at 6:00 pm, Jae will attend a history lecture.

---

4. Next week, the Jones family will buy a new car. This weekend, the Jones family will sell their old car.

---

5. Tonight at 7:00 pm, Mr. and Mrs. Kim will get home.  
Today at 3:30 pm, the workmen will finish installing their new windows.

---

6. In November 2022, Pablo will go to Qatar to watch the World Cup.  
By October 2022, Pablo will save \$3,000.

---

7. Next week, Diego and Sara will get married. Next month, Diego and Sara will move into a new apartment.

---

8. Tonight at midnight, Youssef will go to bed.  
Tonight at 11:00 pm, Youssef will finish his homework.

---

## Exercise 4

### PAIR WORK

Fill in the schedule with things you will (or might) do next Saturday. Then, with a partner, take turns asking and answering future perfect questions. Give as many details as you can.

**Example:**

- A:** What will you have done by 11:00 am next Saturday?
- B:** I will have gone for a coffee with my friend by 11:00 am. We meet at Starbucks every Saturday morning at 9:00, and then we go for a walk. What will you have accomplished by 7:00 pm next Saturday?
- A:** By 7:00 pm, I will have finished making dinner for my family, but we will probably still be eating. How about you?

<b>Schedule</b>	
<b>7:00 am</b>	
<b>9:00 am</b>	
<b>11:00 am</b>	
<b>12:00 pm</b>	
<b>1:00 pm</b>	
<b>3:00 pm</b>	
<b>5:00 pm</b>	
<b>7:00 pm</b>	
<b>9:00 pm</b>	
<b>11:00 pm</b>	

## Exercise 5

### MY GOALS

What will you have accomplished in life by the time you reach certain milestones (graduation, 30th birthday, 40th birthday, retirement, etc.)? Write a few paragraphs about the goals and dreams you have for your life. Use the future perfect tense as often as possible.

**Example:**

I have a lot of hopes and dreams for my future. I will have studied English for many years by the time I graduate from university, so I will be pretty fluent. A year after that, I imagine I will have started my career as an English teacher...

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## Exercise 6

### MIXED TENSES

#### A. Complete the Story

Complete the following story by filling in the blanks using the verbs provided. Decide if each sentence should be in the **present perfect**, **past perfect**, or **future perfect** tense. Use the story's context and time markers to help you choose which tense to use for each verb.

I \_\_\_\_\_ so confused lately. I feel like I \_\_\_\_\_ in too  
(1. be) (2. be pulled)

many directions for weeks now. I'm trying to think of what I want to do with the rest of my life so that by the

time I \_\_\_\_\_ from university next year, I \_\_\_\_\_  
(3. graduate) (4. decide)

on a career path. When I \_\_\_\_\_ a teenager, I \_\_\_\_\_  
(5. be) (6. decide)

that I wanted to be a news anchor, but now I don't think I want to be on TV. What I really love is writing.

I \_\_\_\_\_ years writing short stories and newspaper articles. In fact,  
(7. spend)

I \_\_\_\_\_ more than 100 articles by the time I \_\_\_\_\_  
(8. write) (9. enter)

university, so maybe I should become a journalist instead of a news anchor. I can still put my communications

degree to good use!



## Exercise 6 cont.

### A. Complete the Story cont.

Also, my friends \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of my time lately, and  
(10. take up)

I \_\_\_\_\_ as focused on my school and career as I should be. It will be the middle of  
(11. be, not)

the term two days from now, and I \_\_\_\_\_ all my assignments by then because I have  
(12. hand in, not)

been going out too often. I feel so stressed out. Maybe I need a vacation! My best friend is going on a six-week

trip to Europe next month, and I'm so tempted to join her. If I \_\_\_\_\_ to Europe with  
(13. go)

her, I \_\_\_\_\_ many countries by the time I'm 25! That would be amazing. Before  
(14. see)

I \_\_\_\_\_ university, I \_\_\_\_\_ five different countries with  
(15. start) (16. visit, already)

my parents, but I \_\_\_\_\_ to Europe. What should I do?  
(17. go, never)

### B. Discussion

After completing this story, tell your partner or group what advice you'd offer this student. Try to use the present, past, and future perfect tenses as often as possible.

## Exercise 7

### QUIZ

Circle the best answer.

- By the time this postcard \_\_\_\_\_ you, we will have left Paris.
  - will have reached
  - will reach
  - reaches
- Ali \_\_\_\_\_ his roof before the rainy season began.
  - will have fixed
  - had fixed
  - will fix
- She \_\_\_\_\_ her training course.
  - has already begun
  - had begun already
  - will already has begun
- They \_\_\_\_\_ to another city before they find new jobs.
  - will have moved
  - had moved
  - have moved
- Before I \_\_\_\_\_ home tonight, I will have completed my assignment.
  - will head
  - headed
  - head
- Isabella had already arrived in Spain when she \_\_\_\_\_ about her host family's accident.
  - will hear
  - heard
  - hears
- Haru and Ai \_\_\_\_\_ English since they were five years old.
  - will have studied
  - had studied
  - have studied
- By the time Daila got to class, it \_\_\_\_\_.
  - will have started
  - had started
  - have started
- By the time Johanne \_\_\_\_\_ a new car, he will have saved enough money for the down payment.
  - will buy
  - buy
  - buys
- By next December, I \_\_\_\_\_ in California for 15 years.
  - will have lived
  - had lived
  - have lived
- It's our anniversary today, and we \_\_\_\_\_ for 25 years.
  - will have been married
  - had been married
  - have been married
- Our new office building \_\_\_\_\_ by this time next year.
  - will have been built
  - will have built
  - will build

# Answer Key

### LESSON DESCRIPTION:

Students learn how and when to use the future perfect tense in English. This lesson includes mixed exercises that combine the present perfect, past perfect, and future perfect tenses.

**LEVEL:** Adv

**TIME:** 2 hours

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

## Exercise 1

- |                        |                            |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. will have made      | 9. will have fallen asleep |
| 2. will have completed | 10. will have finished     |
| 3. wraps up            | 11. will have returned     |
| 4. will have gone      | 12. snows                  |
| 5. stops               | 13. will have arrived      |
| 6. will have set       | 14. get                    |
| 7. will have earned    | 15. will have done         |
| 8. arrive              |                            |

## Exercise 2

Answers may vary slightly. As a follow-up, ask students to form the future perfect passive in sentences 2 and 5. (Answers: 2. *By the time you get to the party, all the food will have been eaten.* 5. *By the time you go apartment-hunting, the good places will have been rented.*) As an additional follow-up, pair up your students and get them to offer each other advice/warnings of their own using *by the time* and the future perfect.

- By the time you get to the stadium, the concert will have started.
- By the time you get to the party, everyone will have eaten all the food.
- By the time you call your mother back, she will have been angry for weeks.
- By the time you join a gym, you will have been out of shape for months.
- By the time you go apartment-hunting, everyone will have rented the good places.
- By the time you hand in your homework, the teacher will already have corrected everyone else's assignments.\*  
(\*Note: Placement of *already* can vary.)

- By the time you go to the doctor, your rash will have gotten worse.
- By the time you go to the hospital to visit your friend, she will have gone home.
- By the time you arrive at the restaurant, your friends will have left.
- By the time you do the dishes, mold will have grown.

## Exercise 3

Answers will vary. Encourage students to vary beginning their sentences with the dependent or independent clause and to try using a variety of time markers.

- Pavel will have graduated by the time he visits his relatives in Russia.
- By the time Amalia takes her cat to the vet, she will have finished work.
- Jae will have taken his psychology exam before he attends a history lecture.
- By the time the Jones family buys a new car, they will have sold their old one.
- By the time Mr. and Mrs Kim get home, the workmen will have finished installing their new windows.
- Pablo will have saved \$3,000 before he goes to Qatar to watch the World Cup.
- Diego and Sara will have gotten married before they move into a new apartment.
- When Youssef goes to bed tonight, he will have finished his homework.

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

## Answer Key cont.

### Exercise 4

Answers will vary. Follow up by having each student share an item or two from their partner's schedule (using the future perfect) with the class.

### Exercise 5

Answers will vary.

### Exercise 6

- |                      |                                       |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. have been         | 10. have taken up                     |
| 2. have been pulled  | 11. haven't been                      |
| 3. graduate          | 12. won't have handed in              |
| 4. will have decided | 13. go                                |
| 5. was               | 14. will have seen                    |
| 6. had decided       | 15. started                           |
| 7. have spent        | 16. had already visited               |
| 8. had written       | 17. have/had never gone/<br>didn't go |
| 9. entered           |                                       |

### Exercise 7

- |      |      |      |      |       |       |
|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| 1. c | 3. a | 5. c | 7. c | 9. c  | 11. c |
| 2. b | 4. a | 6. b | 8. b | 10. a | 12. a |

#### SPELLING NOTE:

This lesson shows the American spelling of the words *Theater*, *Traveled*, and *Mold*. Most other English-speaking countries spell these words this way: *Theatre*, *Travelled*, and *Mould*. 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:

For practice comparing the future perfect with the future perfect progressive tense, please see our future perfect progressive lesson: <https://esllibrary.com/courses/88/lessons/1972>