Future Perfect Continuous

The Future Perfect Continuous tense is used in English to describe actions that will have been happening up to a certain point in the future. It emphasizes the duration of an activity that starts in the past or present and continues into the future, up to a specific time. This tense is particularly useful for expressing ongoing actions and their anticipated duration by a future moment.

The Future Perfect Continuous tense is formed using the following structures:

Positive form: will have been + present participle (ing form of the verb)

- **Example:** "By next year, I will have been working here for five years."

Negative form: will not have been + present participle

- **Example:** "By the time you arrive, I will not have been sleeping for long."

Question form: Will + subject + have been + present participle?

- **Example:** "Will you have been studying for your exams by the time the semester ends?"



Uses

The Future Perfect Continuous tense is used in several specific contexts:

1. To emphasize the duration of an action that will continue up to a specific point in the future.
- **Example:** "By December, she will have been living in London for three years."
2. To show cause and effect in the future, often explaining why something will be in a certain state.
- **Example:** "He will be tired because he will have been jogging for over an hour."
3. To express actions in progress at a certain time in the future.
- **Example:** "Next month, we will have been renovating the house for two years."

Key Points to Remember

- The Future Perfect Continuous tense is less commonly used than other tenses but is very useful for expressing the continuity and duration of future actions.
- Time expressions such as "**for five years**," "**by next week**," "**by the time**," etc., are often used with this tense to indicate the duration or the future point in time.
- Unlike the Future Perfect tense, which focuses on the completion of an action, the Future Perfect Continuous emphasizes the ongoing nature and duration of the action.

Additional Considerations

- It's important to choose between the Future Perfect and Future Perfect Continuous tenses based on whether the focus is on the completion of an action or the ongoing process and duration of the action.
- The Future Perfect Continuous can sometimes be replaced with the Present Perfect Continuous without significant change in meaning, especially in informal contexts, though the Future Perfect Continuous provides a clearer emphasis on the future aspect of the action.

Understanding and using the Future Perfect Continuous tense allows for nuanced expressions of future activities, highlighting their duration and ongoing nature up to specific future moments.

Future Perfect Continuous Exercise 1:

Choose the correct answer.

1. They _____ for six hours straight by the time we arrive.
a) will have been driving
b) will be driving
c) have driven

2. They _____ to find a solution for more than two days by the time we meet.
a) will try
b) will have been trying
c) have tried

3.We _____ for our trip for several months by the time we leave.
a) will be preparing
b) will have prepared
c) will have been preparing

4. I _____ for the marathon for six months by the time the race occurs.
a) have trained
b) will train
c) will have been training

5. I _____ Spanish for two years by the time I move to Spain.
a) will have been learning
b) will learn
c) have learned

6. She _____ in Asia for a year by the time she returns home.
a) will have been traveling
b) will travel
c) has traveled

7. They _____ their new house for a year by the time it's fully renovated.
a) have been building
b) will build
c) will have been building

8. He _____ on his novel for ten years by the time it's finally published.
a) will have been working
b) will work
c) has worked

9. I _____ at this school for two years by the time I leave.
a) will teach
b) will be teaching
c) will have been teaching

10. By the time the train arrives, we _____ for three hours.
a) will have been waiting
b) will wait
c) have waited



Future Perfect Continuous Exercise 2:

Complete the sentences of a climate change report with the correct form of the future perfect continuous.

1. In 2033, we will look back on the changes that have taken place over the last decade. By then, we _____ **(work)** tirelessly to combat climate change and its effects.

2. Residents in coastal areas _____ **(live)** with the reality of rising sea levels for many years, adapting their lifestyles to this new norm.

3. Scientists _____ **(research)** innovative solutions to environmental problems for over a decade, pushing the boundaries of what we thought was possible.

4. In the field of technology, engineers _____ **(develop)** new sustainable energy sources, significantly reducing our reliance on fossil fuels.

5. Educators _____ **(integrate)** climate education into school curricula for years, ensuring that the next generation is better prepared to deal with environmental challenges.

6. Healthcare professionals _____ **(address)** the impact of pollution on public health, working to improve the quality of life in affected communities.

7. Activists _____ **(campaign)** for policy changes, ensuring that environmental concerns are at the forefront of political agendas.

8. In the arts, creators _____ **(use)** their platforms to raise awareness about climate change, influencing public opinion and sparking meaningful conversations.

9. Business leaders _____ **(invest)** in green technologies and sustainable practices, reshaping the corporate world's approach to environmental responsibility.

10. Finally, individuals and communities _____ **(come)** together to enact local changes, proving that collective action can lead to significant impacts.

Future perfect continuous: answer key

Grammar practice · B2 Upper-intermediate

Where two or more answers are given, any of them is correct.

Exercise 1

1. a) will have been driving
2. b) will have been trying
3. c) will have been preparing
4. c) will have been training
5. a) will have been learning
6. a) will have been traveling
7. c) will have been building
8. a) will have been working
9. c) will have been teaching
10. a) will have been waiting

Exercise 2

1. will have been working
2. will have been living
3. will have been researching
4. will have been developing
5. will have been integrating
6. will have been addressing
7. will have been campaigning
8. will have been using
9. will have been investing
10. will have been coming

Corrections to the printed pages

Explanation: the future perfect continuous cannot simply be replaced by the present perfect continuous.