

## The Future Continuous Tense

### Introduction

1) We use the future continuous to say that we will be in the middle of doing something at a certain time in the future. We often use it when we compare what we are doing now with that we will be doing in the future. There is nearly always a time expression.

*The movie starts at 8.00 and ends at 10.00. At 9.00 I will be watching the movie.*

2) The future continuous is formed with *will + be + the -ing form of the verb*. Questions are formed by inverting the subject and *will*. Negatives are formed with *will not (won't) + be + the -ing form of the verb*. Contracted forms are used in speech and informal writing.

*(+) Sarah will be flying home at 5 o'clock tomorrow.*

*(-) Sarah will not be flying home at 5 o'clock tomorrow./She won't be flying home at 5 o'clock tomorrow.*

*(?) Will Sarah be flying home at 5 o'clock tomorrow?/Where will she be flying at 5 o'clock tomorrow?*

Some **time markers** can show that we will be in the middle of doing something at a certain time in the future. These **time markers** are *at 5 o'clock, at that time tomorrow, this evening, in five years' time etc.*

*Where will you be living **in 3 years' time**?*

We also use the future continuous to say that something will definitely happen in the future.  
*I'll be going to the shop later. Can I get you anything?*

Compare *will be doing* with the other continuous forms.

*Jane has an ordinary 9/5 job.*

*At 11 o'clock yesterday she was working. (past continuous)*

*At 11 o'clock today she is working. (present continuous)*

***At 11 o'clock tomorrow she will be working. (future continuous)***

### Short Story Dialogue

The future continuous is widely used in daily life.

- *Dan, **will you be using your bike this afternoon?***
- *Yes, you can't take it.*
- ***Will you be going outside then?***
- *Yes, **I'll be going out with my friends tonight.** Do you need something?*
- ***Will you be passing the post office?***
- *Most probably.*
- *Can you get my package?*
- *OK. I hope this package is not heavy!*

**Independent Practice - Future continuous tense**

**1) Underline the correct phrase.**

a. We won't <i>move/be moving</i> to our new apartment at this time on Thursday.
b. This time next week Susan <i>will play/will be playing</i> football with her friends.
c. Where <i>will Sam/Sam will</i> be working in one year's time?

**2) Write the correct sentence.**

a. You'll recognise her. She (to wear) a red dress.	..... .....
b. Everyone (to sleep) at that hour!	..... .....
c. Fred (to work) as a lead developer in 4 years' time.	..... .....
d. At 8 o'clock tomorrow morning I (to take) my son to daycare.	..... .....

**3) Answer the questions.**

a. What will you be doing at 7 p.m. tomorrow?	..... .....
b. What will you be doing in 5 years' time?	..... .....
c. What will people be celebrating on the 1 <sup>st</sup> of January?	..... .....

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## Independent Practice: Answers - Future continuous tense

### 1) Underline the correct phrase.

- a. We won't *move*/*be moving* to our new apartment at this time on Thursday.
- b. This time next week Susan *will play*/*will be playing* football with her friends.
- c. Where *will Sam*/*Sam will* be working in 1 year's time?

### 2) Write the correct answer.

- a. You'll recognise her. She'll **be wearing** a red dress.
- b. Everyone **will be sleeping** at that hour!
- c. Fred **will be working** as a lead developer in 4 years' time.
- d. At 8 o'clock tomorrow morning I'll **be taking** my son to daycare.

### 3) Answer the questions. Sample Answers:

- a. I'll be driving to Boston at this time tomorrow.
- b. I'll be working at a tech company.
- c. People will be celebrating New Year on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January.