

## The Future Perfect Continuous Tense

### Introduction

1) We use the future perfect continuous when we describe an action (quite a long one) that has begun sometime in the past, present, or future, and is expected to continue in the future. In this case, we are projecting ourselves forward in time and looking back at the duration of that action.

*When Peter turns 40, he will have been painting for 35 years.*

2) The future perfect continuous is formed using *will + have + been + present participle*. Questions are indicated by inverting the subject and *will*. Negatives are made with *not*. Contracted forms are used.

(+) *At 6 o'clock I will have been waiting here for an hour./At that time I'll have been waiting here for an hour.*

(-) *I won't have been waiting here for an hour at 6 o'clock.*

(?) *Will I have been waiting here for an hour at 6 o'clock?*

We often use *by + time expression* with the future perfect continuous to show that the situation has begun sometime in the past, present, or future, and is expected to continue in the future.

*By 2025 he'll have been living in London for 10 years.*

We can also use *when, as soon as, before, or by the time* to show the sequence of events. In this case, use the present simple tense in the parts with *when, by the time etc.*

*When I complete my studies, I'll have been learning English for 17 years.*

Remember that **non-continuous verbs (e.g. to love, hate, know, want etc.) are not used** in any continuous tenses. Use the future perfect instead.

~~*In March I'll have been knowing you for a year.*~~ *In March I'll have known you for a year.*

**Short Story Dialogue**

- *I've just realized that **by the time they finish their trip, they'll have been hiking for more than 25 days.***
- *Yeah, I know! **And they won't have been sleeping in bed or having a shower in almost a month!***
- *Yeah. Well, at least they won't be that picky about the food then! **When we pick them up, they will have been eating canned food for weeks.***
- *Maybe taking them straight to the buffet is a better idea...*

**Independent Practice - Future perfect continuous**

**1) Make sentences using the words in brackets.**

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| a. (we/to wait/for over an hour/by the time Kim/to arrive).                        | .....<br>..... |
| b. (how long/you/to study/when you/to graduate)?                                   | .....<br>..... |
| c. (we/to drive/for 12 hours/when we/to get/to Berlin).                            | .....<br>..... |
| d. (my sister/to teach/for more than 5 years/by the time she/to leave/for Europe). | .....<br>..... |

**2) Put the verbs into the future perfect (I will have done) or the future perfect continuous (I will have been doing) form.**

- a. Pick me up after 5 p.m. (I/to get ready) ..... by then.
- b. (Kate/to lose) ..... all her motivation before the end of the semester.
- c. (Jack/to wait) ..... for her to say 'Yes' for 2 years next month.

**3) Answer the questions.**

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| a. Will you have been cooking for hours by the time your guests arrive?         | .....<br>..... |
| b. Will you have been working at your current position for one year next month? | .....<br>..... |
| c. Will you have been learning English for 10 years in 2020?                    | .....<br>..... |

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## Independent Practice: Answers - - Future perfect continuous

### 1) Make sentences using the words in brackets.

- a. We'll have been waiting for over an hour by the time Kim arrives.
- b. How long will you have been studying when you graduate?
- c. We'll have been driving for 12 hours when we get to Berlin.
- d. My sister will have been teaching for more than 5 years by the time she leaves for Europe.

### 2) Put the verbs into the future perfect (I will have done) or the future perfect continuous (I will have been doing) form.

- a. Pick me up after 5 p.m. **I'll have got ready** by then.
- b. **Kate will have lost** all her motivation before the end of the semester.
- c. Jack **will have been waiting** for her to say 'Yes' for 2 years next month.

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

- a. Yes, I'll have been cooking for hours by the time my guests arrive.
- b. No, I won't have been working at my current position for one year next month.
- c. No, I'll have been learning English for 20 years in 2020.