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The **Future Perfect Continuous** is normally used to **predict the length of an activity** — as if looking back at such activity from some **finished time** in the future.

Meaning

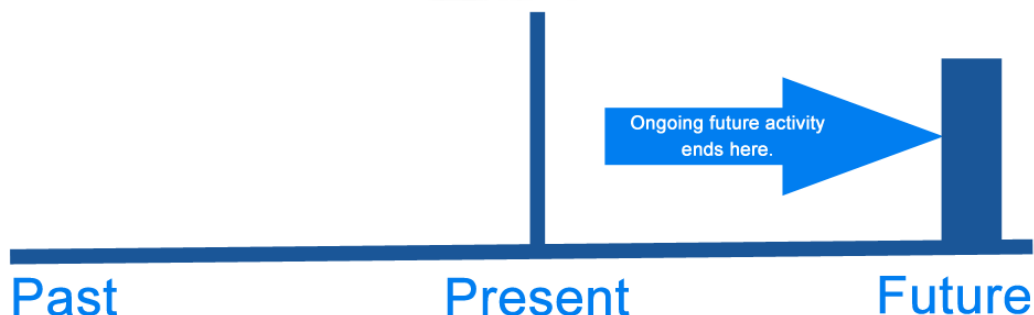
The **Future Perfect Continuous** refers to ongoing events or actions that will continue up to some point in the future. It is most often used with a time expression.

- *By July, Cindy **will have been working** in this office **for a year** ('for a year' is an imagined finished time in the future, but Cindy will still continue her work after it).*

Here's an illustration of what the Future Perfect Continuous (Progressive) expresses.

Future Perfect Progressive Tense

Will Have Been + Present Participle



via <https://writingexplained.org/grammar-dictionary/future-perfect-progressive-tense>

- ***I will have been waiting*** here for three hours by six o'clock.
- By 2001 ***I will have been living*** in London for sixteen years.

When to use Future Perfect Continuous

The Future Perfect Continuous tense is a combination of two English verb tenses: the [Future Continuous](#) (continuity of an action) and the [Future Perfect](#) (completion or result by a certain point in time).

An ongoing future event

Pattern 1: An ongoing future event in Future Perfect Continuous form may start in future and then only last for a set amount of time:



via <https://writingexplained.org/grammar-dictionary/future-perfect-progressive-tense>

- *By next November, I **will have been working** for that company for half a year.*

The set amount of time in this sentence is 'half a year.' The action that has not yet occurred is working for the company. For example, the speaker may start working for that company in January and at the time this sentence is spoken, it has not yet occurred.

An event that have begun in the past

Pattern 2: Sometimes the event can actually have *begun* in the past, as in the case with our following example:



via

via <https://writingexplained.org/grammar-dictionary/future-perfect-progressive-tense>

- You **will have been studying** for six straight months when you take the TOEFL exam.

In this example you have already *started studying*, but the act of studying for six months has not yet been completed. Once the exam is taken, this action will have been completed.

Future Perfect Continuous to show cause

Pattern 3: The Future Perfect Continuous is also used to show cause. This means that something in the future has not yet occurred but is likely to be the cause of another action that will also occur in the future.

- *We'll be in heavy debt because we **will have been overspending** for a month.*

Future Perfect Continuous structure

To make the **Future Perfect Continuous**, use:

will have been + '-ing' form of the verb (Present Participle)

Singular

Plural

*I **will ('ll) have been doing** We'll have been doing*

You'll have been doing You'll have been doing

He/she/it'll have been doing They'll have been doing

- *By the time I arrive home, I **will have been driving** for six hours.*
- *By this time next month, I'll **have been studying** English for a year.*
- *Melissa **will have been cooking** all day long before the wedding cake is ready.*

Negative forms of Future Perfect Continuous

To make a negative form of Future Perfect Continuous, just insert '**not**' between 'will' and 'have' (you can also use 'won't').

- *I **won't have been eating** vegetables for three years by then.*
- *They **won't have been playing** since morning.*

Questions in Future Perfect Continuous

To ask a question in Future Perfect Continuous, just swap 'will' and the subject of the sentence:

will + [subject] + have being + -ing verb

- *How long **will** you **have been learning** English by the end of this year?*
- ***Will** they **have been eating** cake for 15 minutes by the time you bring them coffee?*

Here's a video from Mad English TV with a good explanation of Future Perfect Continuous tense:

See also:

[Future Perfect Tense](#)

[Future Continuous Tense](#)

[Future in the Past](#)