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Intermediate

Live

English
Grammar

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Unit 5

Future Forms

Are you optimistic or pessimistic about the future?

Do the quiz below. Then look at the verb forms 1-6 and match them with their uses a-c.

By 2100, people ...

	Yes	No
... (1) will be going on space cruises.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
... (2) will have solved the problem of world hunger.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
... (3) will be having all their meals in pill form.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
... (4) will have invented time travel.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
... (5) will have been living on other planets for 10 years.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
... (6) will be travelling at the speed of light.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If most of your answers are Yes: You're very optimistic. You like looking on the bright side of things and you're very enthusiastic about the future.

If most of your answers are No: You're very pessimistic. You aren't very curious about the future and you always think that the worst will happen!

If you have an equal number of Yes and No answers: You have a rather moderate view of the future. You're neither very optimistic nor very pessimistic about it.

- a** an action in progress at a definite time in the future _____
- b** an action which will be completed before a definite time in the future _____
- c** an action which will continue up to some time in the future (and possibly after that, too), the duration of which is emphasised _____

Grammar

a Future Will

We use the **Future Will**:

- for decisions made at the time of speaking.
Don't worry about that dripping tap. I'll fix it.
- for promises.
I promise I won't make fun of you again.
- for requests.
Will you post this letter for me, please?
- for threats and warnings.
Do as I say or you'll regret it.
- for predictions, usually with **perhaps** or after the verbs **believe, think, hope, expect, be sure**, etc.
I'm sure you'll do well in your exam.

Time Expressions

tomorrow/tonight
next month/year/week/Tuesday, etc.
this weekend/week/month, etc.
in an hour/year, etc.
soon

Affirmative	Interrogative	Negative
You will (You'll) talk / sleep He will (He'll) talk / sleep	Will you talk / sleep? Will he talk / sleep?	You will not (won't) talk / sleep He will not (won't) talk / sleep

b Future Going to

We use the **Future Going to**:

- for actions that we intend to do in the future.
Liz is going to move to Finland next year.
- for predictions based on evidence.
Look at that man. He's going to dive off the cliff!

Time expressions
tomorrow/tonight
next month/year/week/Tuesday, etc.
this weekend/week/month, etc.
in an hour/year, etc.
soon

Affirmative	Interrogative	Negative
You are (You're) going to talk / sleep He is (He's) going to talk / sleep	Are you going to talk / sleep? Is he going to talk / sleep?	You are not (aren't) going to talk / sleep He is not (isn't) going to talk / sleep

Note: We don't usually use the **Future Going to** of the verbs **come** and **go**. We use the **Present Progressive** instead.
We're going camping this summer. Josh is coming with me to the doctor's tomorrow.

c Future Progressive

We use the **Future Progressive**:

- for actions that will be in progress at a specific point in the future.
This time tomorrow I'll be flying to Mexico.
- for future actions which have already been planned or are part of a routine.
*We'll be spending the summer at the cottage.
Tonight Laura will be watching TV as usual.*

Time expressions
at two o'clock,
at the weekend,
at this time tomorrow/ next week, etc.
next month/year, etc.

- We form the **Future Progressive** with **will be + main verb + -ing**.

Affirmative	Interrogative	Negative
You will (You'll) be talking / sleeping He will (He'll) be talking / sleeping	Will you be talking / sleeping? Will he be talking / sleeping?	You will not (won't) be talking / sleeping He will not (won't) be talking / sleeping

d Future Perfect Simple

We use the **Future Perfect Simple**:

- for actions which will have been completed before a specific point in the future.
I'll have finished this report by the end of the week.
- for an action that will have been completed before another action in the future. The verb describing the second action is in the **Present Simple**.
When you get to the airport, Greg will have already arrived.

Time expressions
by + a point in time,
by the time,
by then, before, etc.

- We form the **Future Perfect Simple** with **will have + past participle**.

Affirmative	Interrogative	Negative
You will (You'll) have talked / slept He will (He'll) have talked / slept	Will you have talked / slept? Will he have talked / slept?	You will not (won't) have talked / slept He will not (won't) have talked / slept

e Future Perfect Progressive

We use the **Future Perfect Progressive**:

- for actions which will be continuing up to a specific point in the future (and possibly further - the duration is emphasised).
By the end of this year, I'll have been living in Berlin for 5 years.

Time expressions

by + a point in time,
by the time,
by then, etc.

- We form the **Future Perfect Progressive** with **will have been + -ing**.

Affirmative	Interrogative
You will (You'll) have been talking / sleeping He will (He'll) have been talking / sleeping	Will you have been talking / sleeping? Will he have been talking / sleeping?

Negative

You will not (won't) have been talking / sleeping
He will not (won't) have been talking / sleeping

Time Clauses

Time clauses describe when the action in the **main clause** takes place. They are introduced by time linkers such as **when, after, before, until, while, as soon as, by the time**, etc. When they refer to the future, the verb in the **time clause** is usually in the **Present Simple** and the verb in the **main clause** is in the **Future Will**.

When I see Fred, I'll tell him to give you a call.

Note: When the **time clause** comes before the **main clause**, they are separated by a comma. When the **main clause** comes before the **time clause**, we do not use a comma.

I'll tell Fred to give you a call when I see him.

activities

a Complete the sentences with the **Future Perfect Simple** or the **Future Perfect Progressive** of the verbs in brackets.

- Hopefully, we will have finished (finish) the project by the end of July.
- By the end of this year, Mario will have been learning (learn) English for three years.
- I don't think I will have got (get) back from work by nine o'clock this evening.

- 4 There's so much traffic! By the time Duncan and Ross get here, the film _____ (already/start).
- 5 By midnight we _____ (fly) for five hours.
- 6 Do you think you _____ (manage) to tidy up the house by the time your parents arrive?
- 7 Brad works hard and earns a lot of money. He _____ (make) a fortune by the time he retires.
- 8 In a couple of hours, it _____ (snow) non-stop for two days.
- 9 I'm afraid I _____ (not/finish) by tomorrow.
- 10 By this time tomorrow she _____ (read) another ten pages of the book.

b Complete the sentences with the **Future Perfect Simple** or the **Future Progressive** of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 By the time I get home, they will have eaten (eat) all the cake.
- 2 _____ you _____ (travel) with your father to Sydney next Monday?
- 3 Sorry, I can't make it in time for dinner. I _____ (work) overtime because we must finish the project tonight.
- 4 Don't worry! Tony _____ (send) the letters by the end of the day.
- 5 The children can't go to the pyjama party on Saturday. They _____ (study) for their exams.
- 6 My car is being serviced so I _____ (take) the underground to work for the next three days.
- 7 They _____ (finish) building the stadium before the Olympic Games next year.

c Complete the sentences with the **Present Simple** or the **Future Will** of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 **Jane:** Andy, hurry up! Time to go!
Andy: I 'll be (be) ready in a minute.
- 2 **Mike:** Off I go! Bye.
Tina: Here, take this umbrella.
Mike: Why? Do you think it _____ (rain)?
Tina: Well, you never know. It's November after all.
- 3 **Sandy:** Is Mr Ellis in his office?
Mandy: He _____ (arrive) at 10:30 on Tuesdays.
- 4 **Mr Smith:** I _____ (need) someone to go through these papers immediately!
George: I _____ (do) it for you.
- 5 **Helen:** Help me! I don't know how this works.
Kevin: It's simple! You _____ (plug) it in and _____ (press) the red button.
- 6 **Sally:** Did Sherry call?
Grace: She _____ (call) as soon as the plane _____ (land).
- 7 **Linda:** Are you free on Saturday night, Bruce?
Bruce: Why?
Linda: _____ you _____ (come) to my party?



8 Sandy: How long _____ to get through to the manager?

Leila: About 45 minutes.

a. have you been trying b. are you trying c. are you going to try

9 When your mum _____, young man, I'll tell her everything.

a. will call b. calls c. is calling

10 _____ the alarm went off, the burglars ran away.

a. Until b. As soon as c. While

Use of English

angry at = having a strong feeling against somebody who has done something bad

curious about = interested in learning about people or things around you

excited about = very happy or enthusiastic

familiar with = knowing something well and understanding it

grateful to = thankful

terrified of = very frightened

Complete each of the sentences below with one of the adjectives and the prepositions in the box.

- I'm very _____ going on the school trip next month.
- Miranda is _____ dogs. She won't go near them!
- You should be _____ Audrey for agreeing to look after your flat while you're away.
- Most people are _____ the future.
- Nigel got really _____ Lorna yesterday, but I didn't quite understand why.
- Are you _____ Darwin's theory of evolution?

f Communication

Work in pairs. Think of your dream career. Tell your partner what you will have done by the ages of 30, 40, 50, etc. Decide who will have been the most successful and report to the class.

e.g. By the age of 30, I will have completed my PhD in astrophysics.

