

# Future Progressive

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# Quick and Handy Grammar Review

## THE FUTURE PROGRESSIVE

### A. Function 1

The main function of the future progressive (also called *the future continuous*) is to show a continuing (long) action getting interrupted by a short future action.

Tense	Future Progressive (Main Use)
Diagram	
Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I <b>will be eating</b> dinner when he <b>calls</b> me tomorrow night.</li> <li>• When he <b>calls</b> me tomorrow night, I <b>will be eating</b> dinner.</li> </ul>
Form	will + be + ing verb
Function	Two actions will occur in the future. The first (long) action is interrupted by the second (short) action.
Time Marker	when

### NOTES

- When forming the future progressive in English, the independent clause uses **will + be + -ing verb** and the dependent clause takes the **simple present**. Even though the verb in the dependent clause has a simple present structure, both clauses have a future meaning. Remember that the dependent clause can come before or after the independent clause. When it comes before the independent clause, a comma is needed.
  - **We will be playing soccer** when the storm hits.
  - When the storm hits, **we will be playing soccer**.
- Some verbs are common as short actions, and knowing them will help you identify if a sentence needs the future progressive. These verbs include *call, ring, arrive, come, land, hit, and go out*.
  - They will be studying when the bell **rings**.
  - She will be sleeping when his plane **lands** tonight.

## Quick and Handy Grammar Review cont.

### A. Function 1 cont.

#### NOTES CONT.

3. The short action in a future progressive sentence can be expressed simply by a time reference instead of a full clause. If a time reference comes before the independent clause, the comma is optional because time references are very short.
  - Mr. Ferguson will be collecting the tests **at 3:00 pm**.
  - They will still be arguing **at noon tomorrow**.
  - **At Christmastime** many people will be shopping for gifts.
  - **At 11:00 pm tonight**, I will still be playing the guitar.
4. *Will* is often contracted to *'ll* in speaking and informal writing.
  - You'**ll be doing** the dishes when I get home from work.
  - When I get home from work, you'**ll be doing** the dishes.
5. It is possible to use *be going to + be + -ing verb* to form the future progressive. Because it is such a long verb tense, *will + be + -ing verb* is more common. Note that though we can use the *present progressive* to indicate a simple future tense, we can never use it with the future progressive.
  - ✗ She **is being studying** when I call her.
  - ✓ She **is going to be studying** when I call her.
  - ✓ She **will be studying** when I call her. (*the most common form*)

## Quick and Handy Grammar Review cont.

### B. Function 2

The secondary function of the future progressive is to emphasize that two long, continuing actions will happen at the same time.

Tense	Future Progressive (Secondary Use)
Diagram	
Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I <b>will be answering</b> emails and you <b>will be texting</b> your friend.</li> <li>• You'<b>ll be texting</b> your friend, and I'<b>ll be answering</b> emails.</li> </ul>
Form	will + be + -ing verb
Function	Two long actions will occur at the same time in the future.
Time Markers	The adverb "while" is possible, but the conjunction "and" is more common.

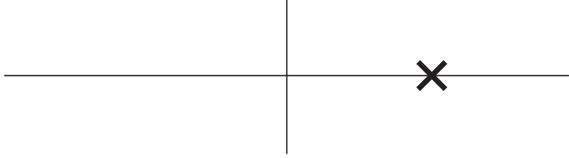
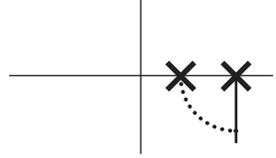
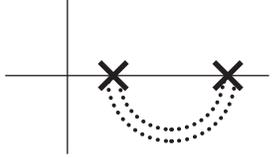
### NOTES

- It is also possible to use the future progressive to emphasize only one long future action.
  - We **will be studying** all night.
  - The audience **will be begging** for more.
- Remember that non-action verbs (*be, have, feelings, states, the five senses, etc.*) almost never take a progressive form.
  - ✗ She will be having a new puppy next month.
  - ✓ She **will have** a new puppy next month.
  - ✗ They will be liking the performance tonight.
  - ✓ They **will like** the performance tonight.
- The future progressive can also be used to ask politely about someone's intentions.
  - **Will he be bringing** his girlfriend to the party tonight?
  - **Will you be coming** home right after work?
- Note that though two future progressive verbs are possible, it is more common to use two simple future verbs unless you really want to emphasize the long action.
  - ✓ I **will be answering** emails and you **will be texting** your friend.
  - ✓ I **will answer** emails and you **will text** your friend. (*more common*)

## Quick and Handy Grammar Review cont.

### C. The Simple Future Vs. The Future Progressive

The simple future is used to show a future action.  
Compare the two tenses using the diagram below:

Tense	Simple Future	Future Progressive	
Diagram			
Form	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>will + base verb</li> <li>be going to + base verb</li> <li>be + -ing verb</li> </ol>	will + be + -ing verb	
Function	Used to show a future action.	A long future action will be interrupted by a short future action.	Two long actions will occur at the same time in the future.
Time Markers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>tomorrow</li> <li>the day after tomorrow</li> <li>next</li> <li>from now</li> <li>when</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>when</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>and</li> <li>while</li> </ul>
Example	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I <b>will call</b> you tomorrow night.</li> <li>I <b>am going to call</b> you tomorrow night.</li> <li>I'm <b>calling</b> you tomorrow night.</li> </ol>	I <b>will be sleeping</b> when the girls <b>get</b> home.	I <b>will be studying</b> and you <b>will be watching</b> TV.

## Exercise 1

Form the future progressive of the verbs in brackets.

1. The sun will be shining when the kids wake up tomorrow morning.  
(shine)
2. At 3:00 am, she \_\_\_\_\_ .  
(sleep)
3. He \_\_\_\_\_ through Europe next summer.  
(travel)
4. \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ the ceremony tomorrow?  
(attend)
5. When we are in Brazil, we \_\_\_\_\_ with friends.  
(stay)
6. Peter \_\_\_\_\_ and Sarah will be cleaning before the party.  
(cook)
7. I \_\_\_\_\_ still \_\_\_\_\_ at 7:00 pm, so I'll be late for dinner.  
(work)
8. It \_\_\_\_\_ when you leave the office tonight.  
(rain)
9. His band \_\_\_\_\_ at the club tonight.  
(perform)
10. When the bell rings, the students \_\_\_\_\_ outside.  
(play)
11. They \_\_\_\_\_ dinner at 8:00 pm, so don't call then.  
(eat)
12. The party \_\_\_\_\_ still \_\_\_\_\_ at 2:00 am.  
(go)

## Exercise 2

### CLASS SURVEY

Interview the classmates in your group. Find out what they will be doing at the specific times mentioned, and complete the chart below.

Time	Classmate #1	Classmate #2	Classmate #3	You
11:00 pm tonight				
6:00 am tomorrow morning				
7:30 am tomorrow morning				
10:00 am tomorrow morning				
3:00 pm tomorrow afternoon				
6:00 pm tomorrow evening				
8:30 pm tomorrow night				
1:00 pm the day after tomorrow				
next weekend				

## Exercise 3

### CORRECT THE ERRORS

Find one error in each sentence and correct it on the line below.

1. When my friend get to my house, I will be watching TV.

*When my friend gets to my house, I will be watching TV.*

---

2. Michael will living in Russia next summer.
- 

3. John will be playing the guitar and Lisa sings.
- 

4. She will be sleep when I finish work.
- 

5. My sister will being wearing a beautiful dress to the concert.
- 

6. The band will be playing their favorite song when he propose.
- 

7. He be reading all weekend long.
- 

8. When you will be arriving at the restaurant, I will be waiting inside.
- 

9. I going to Disneyland on my birthday.
- 

10. Tomorrow morning, her dad reads the newspaper and she will be studying.
-

## Exercise 4

Write the verb in brackets in the simple future or the future progressive tense.

1. My friends will be walking to school when they see the new statue.  
(walk)
2. When the lights \_\_\_\_\_, we will already be sleeping.  
(go out)
3. I'm sure I \_\_\_\_\_ the book you recommended.  
(love)
4. She \_\_\_\_\_ for me at the hotel when the train arrives.  
(wait)
5. My son will be studying when his girlfriend \_\_\_\_\_ him.  
(call)
6. He \_\_\_\_\_ the piano and I will be playing the flute.  
(play)
7. My cat will be napping when I \_\_\_\_\_ home.  
(get)
8. Maria \_\_\_\_\_ happy when she starts her new job.  
(be)
9. My lazy coworker will be daydreaming during the meeting and the rest of us \_\_\_\_\_ hard.  
(work)
10. When my friend \_\_\_\_\_ me tomorrow night, I will be watching a movie.  
(text)



## Exercise 6

### FIND SOMEONE WHO

Walk around the class and interview your classmates. If a classmate answers "yes" to a question, write his or her name in the chart.

#	Find someone...	Name
1	who will be sleeping at 10:00 pm tonight.	
2	who will be daydreaming during class tomorrow	
3	who will be doing their homework at 7:30 pm tonight.	
4	who will be playing sports next weekend.	
5	who will be watching TV tomorrow night.	
6	who will be talking to someone from their country this week.	
7	who will be going shopping after class today.	
8	who will be napping on the way to school tomorrow.	
9	who will be cooking a big dinner for the next major hoilday.	
10	who will be wearing fancy clothes on the day he/she graduates from this class.	