

# English Verbs: Future Perfect Continuous

**Format: will have been + present participle**

We use the Future Perfect Continuous to describe a continuous action or a repeated **action** until a time in the future.



Examples:

- I **will have been studying** English for six months when I return to Paris.
- When I arrive in the USA, I **will have been travelling** for 48 hours.
- We **will have been waiting** for more than two hours when her plane arrives.
- They **will have been talking** for over an hour by the time Thomas arrives.
- She **will have been working** at that company for three years when it closes in June.
- James **will have been teaching** at the school for two years when he goes to Asia.
- We **will have been driving** for over three days when we get to Anchorage.
- Jason will be tired when he gets home because he **will have been jogging** for over an hour.

Notice that in all the examples, the reference points use the **Present Simple** tense. This is because the times are in “time clauses” (e.g. “when”, “by the time”), and you cannot use future tenses in time clauses.

For state verbs (have, be, etc.) we use the “Future Perfect Simple” tense:

- ~~Next year, Ned **will have been having** his driving license for ten years.~~
- Next year, Ned **will have had** his driving license for ten years.

If a verb can be considered as a state or action verb, then we can use both forms:

- I **will have lived** in the USA for 5 years when you visit me in June.
- I **will have been living** in the USA for 5 years when you visit me in June.

Consider the difference between these two sentences:

a) By the end of this year, I **will have been collecting** postcards for 30 years.  
**This describes the action of his hobby.**

b) By the end of this year, I **will have collected** 2,000 postcards.  
**This describes the result/state of his hobby.**

**Exercise.** Complete the following using the “Future Perfect Continuous” tense:

1. By next Monday, I \_\_\_\_\_ this book for one month. (*read*)
2. On Saturday, we \_\_\_\_\_ the guitar for two years. (*learn*)
3. In August, I \_\_\_\_\_ glasses for ten years. (*wear*)

More information: <https://www.maiovergara.com/estruturas-do-ingles-tempo-verbal-future-perfect-continuous/>  
Recommended video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SC0ZhwO534>