

The future continuous can be formed using “will” or “going to.” It describes an event or situation that will be in progress at some point in the future.

See also:

Present continuous 4 “Will” 18

Infinitives and participles 51

## 20.1 THE FUTURE CONTINUOUS WITH WILL

The future continuous describes an event that will be in progress at a given time in the future which is often stated. The event will start before the stated time and may continue after it.

PRESENT CONTINUOUS

Right now **I'm working** in a café.

In 10 years' time, I hope I **will be running** a bistro.

FUTURE CONTINUOUS



### HOW TO FORM

SUBJECT

“WILL BE”

PRESENT PARTICIPLE

OBJECT

I

will be

running

a bistro.

### FURTHER EXAMPLES

This time next week, we **will be walking** in the Andes.



Emma **will be starting** school in September.



## 20.2 THE FUTURE CONTINUOUS WITH "ANYWAY"

The future continuous can also be used to talk about events that are going to happen as a matter of course or "anyway."

Oh no, I've run out of milk.



I can get some for you later.

No, please don't worry!



It's okay, I'll be driving past the store anyway.

### FURTHER EXAMPLES



You can send the parcel here. I'll be waiting in the house anyway.



I can give that to Freda for you. I'll be seeing her for lunch.

"Anyway" is implied here.

## 20.3 NEUTRAL QUESTIONS

The future continuous is also used to ask neutral questions: questions asked for information, not to make a request.

### NEUTRAL QUESTION

Future continuous.

Will you be coming into work tomorrow?

Yes, I will.

OK, let's talk about the report then.



### REQUEST

Future simple.

Will you come into work tomorrow please?

Sure, no problem



### FURTHER EXAMPLES

Will you be driving past the post office later?



Will you be attending the meeting this afternoon?



## 20.4 THE FUTURE CONTINUOUS TO TALK ABOUT THE PRESENT

You can also use the future continuous to speculate about what is happening at the present moment.

Have you noticed that Andrew isn't at work today?

It's more likely that he'll be watching the golf on TV!



He'll be working on his presentation at home.

### FURTHER EXAMPLES

Why isn't Xavier here today?



He'll be finishing off his report for the annual meeting.

Why is Nev late?



He'll be taking his children to school.

Where is Sarah?



She'll be studying in the library probably.

Is Phoebe at home?



No, she's not here. She'll be playing with Ciara at the park, probably.

Have you seen Roberta?



No, but she's going out later, so I think she'll be getting ready.

## 20.5 THE FUTURE CONTINUOUS WITH "GOING TO"

The future continuous can sometimes be formed with "going to" instead of "will," but this is less common. It can be used in most future continuous constructions except to speculate about the present.

I can't come out this evening.  
I'm going to be studying all night.



### HOW TO FORM

SUBJECT

"BE"

"GOING TO BE"

PRESENT PARTICIPLE

REST OF SENTENCE

I am going to be studying all night.

### FURTHER EXAMPLES

I want to go away on Saturday, but I'm going to be working all weekend.



I'd love to go out on Thursday, but I'm going to be finishing this essay.



Shall we have lunch next week? I'm going to be visiting your city.



I'm going to be staying with my husband's family for the holidays this year.



Do you want to go to a concert tonight? My wife is going to be performing.



At the lecture this evening, two politicians are going to be talking about crime.

