

# 21 The future perfect

The future perfect is used to talk about an event that will overlap with, or finish before, another event in the future. It can be used in simple or continuous forms.

See also:  
Infinitives and participles **51**  
Prepositions of time **107**

## 21.1 THE FUTURE PERFECT

The future perfect is used to describe an action or event that will be finished before a certain future time.

"By" has a similar meaning to "before."

They **will have built** the skyscraper **by** January.



NOW



NOVEMBER



DECEMBER



JANUARY

### HOW TO FORM

SUBJECT

They

"WILL HAVE"

will have

PAST PARTICIPLE

built

OBJECT

the skyscraper

TIME PHRASE

by January.

### FURTHER EXAMPLES

Cai **will have read** all his course books by next week.



Sam **will have finished** the laundry by this afternoon.



The next time you see me, I **will have had** a haircut.



We're so late! The play **will have started** by the time we get there!



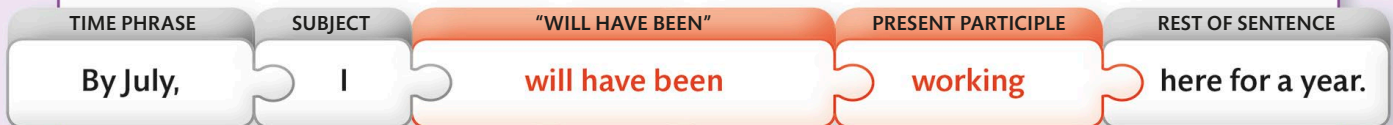
## 21.2 THE FUTURE PERFECT CONTINUOUS

The future perfect continuous can be used to predict the length of an activity. This tense looks back from the imagined finishing time in the future.

By July, I **will have been working** here for a year.



### FURTHER EXAMPLES



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By the time this is all ready, Andy **will have been cooking** all day!



By the time I arrive home, I **will have been driving** for six hours.



By this time next month, I **will have been studying** English for a year!



He **will have been waiting** for two hours by the time she arrives.



This case **will have been going on** for over a year before it is settled.

