

The Future Progressive Tense

The future progressive tense, also known as the future continuous tense, describes an ongoing action that will occur in the future. It's formed using "will be" followed by the present participle (verb + -ing). For example:

- I **will be eating** dinner at 7 PM.
- She **will be studying** for her exams this weekend.
- They **will be traveling** to Paris next month.

The future progressive is great for emphasizing the ongoing nature of future actions. We can replace “will” with “be going to” in the sentences containing this tense.

Formula:

Subject + will (not) + be + Verb + ing + ...

Subject + be (not) going to + be + Verb + ing + ...

Examples:

*I **will be teaching** English tomorrow at this time.*

*I'm **going to be** teaching English tomorrow at this time.*

*Robert **won't be doing** his homework this evening.*

*Robert **isn't going to be doing** his homework this evening.*

*We **will be lying** on the beach next week at this time.*

*We **are going to be lying** on the beach next week at this time.*

Future Simple vs. Future Progressive

Future simple is about definite events, while future progressive emphasizes the continuous nature of an action.

Examples:

The mechanic will repair the car tomorrow.

- The Action of repair will be finished tomorrow.
- The car will be ready.

The mechanic will be repairing the car tomorrow.

- The Action of repair will be in progress tomorrow.
- The car won't necessarily be ready.

The Softening Effect of the Future Progressive Tense:

The future progressive has a softening effect and makes the sentences much politer or less serious than the sentences containing the future simple.

Will you be attending the meeting this afternoon?

- A secretary is talking to her boss.
- The secretary is inferior to the boss.
- This question is just for getting some information politely from someone who is superior.

Will you type the reports this afternoon?

- The boss is talking to the secretary.
- This is an order, not just a question for getting some information.

Will you be staying here tonight?

- A guest is asking this question of another guest at a party.
- This is just a question for getting some information.

Will you stay here tonight?

- The host is inviting a guest to stay there.
- This is a serious invitation, not just a question for getting some information.

Source:

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