

43 Future perfect: simple and continuous

Shall I book the restaurant for seven this evening? We'll **have got back** to the hotel and had a shower by then.

That's a good idea. We'll **have been skiing** all day so we'll be ready for a meal!

1 Future perfect simple

We form the **future perfect simple** with *will + have + past participle*:

POSITIVE	<i>I will ('ll) have worked. He will ('ll) have worked. They will ('ll) have arrived.</i>
NEGATIVE	<i>I will not (won't) have worked. It will not (won't) have finished. We will not (won't) have stopped.</i>
QUESTIONS	<i>Will you have worked? (No, I won't.) Will she have finished? (Yes, she will.) What will you have done?</i>

2 Future perfect continuous

We form the **future perfect continuous** with *will + have + been + the -ing form of the verb*:

POSITIVE	<i>I'll have been working. He'll have been waiting. They'll have been watching TV.</i>
NEGATIVE	<i>I will not (won't) have been waiting. It will not (won't) have been working. We will not (won't) have been skiing.</i>
QUESTIONS	<i>Will you have been swimming? (No, I won't.) Will she have been waiting? (Yes, she will.) What will you have been doing?</i>

3 Completed actions

We use the future perfect simple for actions which we expect to be completed by a particular time in the future:

*We'll **have got back** and had a shower by seven.*

(= We will get back before seven o'clock.)

We usually use time expressions with the future perfect:

*He'll have arrived **by this evening**.*

*Do you think your guests will have left **before we get there**?*



4 Actions in progress

We use the future perfect continuous to talk about an action which is happening up to a particular time in the future. The action may stop at that time or it may continue after it.

*By next Friday I'll **have been waiting** for my exam results for over two months!*

We can use this form, usually with *so*, to explain the reason for a future situation:

*We'll **have been skiing** all day so we'll be ready for a meal!*

*They'll **have been working** since eight o'clock so they'll be tired.*

Compare the future perfect simple and continuous:

*By ten o'clock I'll **have finished** my homework.* (emphasis on a completed action)

*By nine o'clock I'll **have been working** on my essay for four hours.* (emphasis on 'how long')