

will have done (future perfect)**5** Study the notes in the box.

- The future perfect is formed with *will have* + past participle. It is often used with *by* or *by the time*.
I'll have finished the report by the end of the week.
By the time you arrive, the meeting will already have started.
- All the perfect tenses are used for 'looking back'. The future perfect is no different. Compare:

Past perfect

When I arrived at their offices, the meeting had already started.

(looking back from the past to an earlier event in the past)

Present perfect

I'm sorry, I'm late. Has the sales meeting already started?

(looking back from now to an event in the recent past)

Future perfect

Don't worry if you can't get to our offices until 9.30. The meeting will already have started, but it's scheduled to last until lunchtime and your presence will still be useful.

(looking back from the future to an earlier event in the future)

- The future perfect is not common in English because it can often be replaced by a simple *will* form. This is easier and so speakers prefer it. Both of these are possible and there is no difference in meaning.

I'll finish the report by the end of the week.

I'll have finished the report by the end of the week.

Read the information about how a business person is going to spend her time over the next two weeks. Then answer the questions below using the future perfect.

Catherine is marketing director for a firm of publishers based in the UK. Over the next two weeks she is going to visit her most important markets in Western Europe: France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland and Austria. She's flying between the capital cities of each country, and of course flying out to Paris and back from Vienna at the end. She expects to have two meetings a day for each of her ten working days abroad. On trips like this she eats dinner in the restaurant in the evening – so that's no home cooking from Monday when she leaves to Friday afternoon of the following week – not even at the weekend.

- How many countries will she have visited?
By the end of the trip she'll have visited six countries.
- How many flights will she have taken?
Altogether _____
- How many meetings will she have had?
When she finally gets to the end _____
- How many restaurant dinners will she have eaten?
By the time she finishes _____

6 Complete each sentence using the most appropriate form of the verb in brackets: either the future continuous (*will be doing*) or the future perfect (*will have done*). Use contractions.

- I'm enjoying this course. I _____ (learn) a lot by the time it's finished.
- I'm really looking forward to the course next year. I _____ (learn) about the world economy and its impact on financial markets.
- I have to be careful with my money this month. I _____ (spend) a lot next week when my car is serviced, and I also have some bills to pay.
- I haven't got much money left. If I go on like this, I _____ (spend) it all soon.

will have been doing (future perfect continuous)**7** Read the notes in the box then do the exercise below.

- The future perfect continuous is formed with *will have been + -ing* form of the verb.
- The future perfect continuous is used for 'looking back from the future at an action in progress'. In other words, it combines the meaning of the future perfect and the future continuous.
- It is only very rarely that we need to express this meaning, and when we do it is usually to emphasize the duration and the repetitive nature of the action: *By the time he retires, he'll have been working here for more than thirty years.*
By lunchtime, I'll have been replying to emails for over two hours.
- Use the future perfect to emphasize a result, and the future perfect continuous to emphasize an action in progress:
By the end of her trip, she'll have collected a lot of useful market information. (result)
By the end of her trip, she'll have been travelling non-stop for twelve days. (action in progress, with emphasis on the duration and repetitive nature)

Complete each sentence using either the future perfect or the future perfect continuous. Use contractions.

- Next year we _____ (make) cars on this same site for fifty years.
- By the end of the year, we _____ (make) profits of over €3 million.
- By Friday I _____ (write) the report. Then maybe I can think about something else for a change!
- By Friday I _____ (write) this stupid report for two weeks and it still won't be finished. It's driving me mad.