

# Future Progressive – *will be doing*

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**Target students:** Lower secondary

**Corpora used:** British National Corpus

Corpus of Contemporary American English

**Class duration:** 100 minutes

**Topic:** Our life in the future

## Lesson Objectives:

By the end of this lesson, the students will be able to

1. Identify the form of future progressive ‘will be doing’;
2. Use future progressive to describe life in the future;
3. Distinguish between simple future tense and future progressive.

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## Stage 1: Presentation

### A. Review simple future tense:

#### John Watkin's predictions about the future

- Look at the following pictures. They were some predictions made by John E. Watkins in 1900. What did Watkins say and predict?
- Check (✓) the predictions that you think have come true.



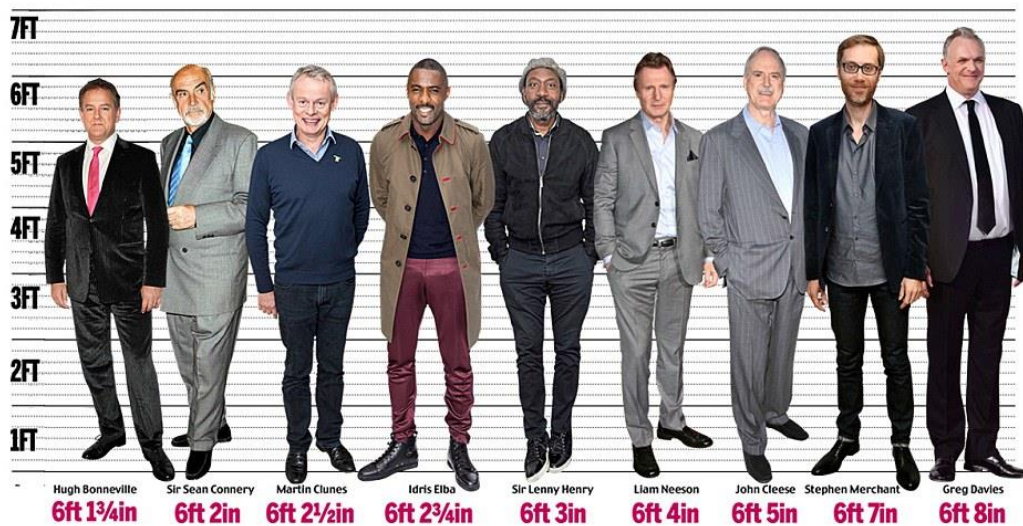
(1) Trains will travel at speeds of up to 150 miles per hour.



(2) A man in Korea will talk to his colleagues in foreign countries.



(3) People will eat strawberries, raspberries and blackberries as big as apples!



(4) Americans will grow taller by one to two inches.

## B. Future progressive tense

1. Listen to the song *Right Here Waiting* by Richard Marx and fill in the blanks.

Oceans apart day after day  
And I slowly go insane  
I hear your voice on the line  
But it doesn't stop the pain  
If I see you next to never

<p style="text-align: center;">             How can we say forever              Wherever you go              Whatever you do              I <u>will be</u> right here <u>waiting</u> for you              Whatever it takes              Or how my heart breaks              I <u>will be</u> right here <u>waiting</u> for you           </p>
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2. Circle all the verbs in this sentence. What is the tense used?

I will be right here waiting for you.

*The above sentence uses future progressive tense.*

## Stage 2: Problem Solving

**A. Discover the structure of the future progressive tense.**

**1. Positive sentence:** Circle all the **SUBJECTS** and **VERBS**.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | By this time tomorrow, <u>I'll be lying</u> on the beach.                         |
| 2 | That's what they will be doing for the next coming months.                        |
| 3 | Jodi and Tina have a sweet tooth. They will be eating all the cake, I assure you. |
| 4 | The penguin from Antarctica will be swimming under glass.                         |
| 5 | President Trump and his wife Melania will be dancing on this stage behind me.     |
| 6 | They will be learning how to work in teams.                                       |

**Rule:**

- (a) Structure: Subject + will be + doing (present participle).
- (b) Form: The number of the subject \*~~will~~ / will not change the verb structure “will be doing”.
- (c) Usage: It indicates continuing action, something that will be happening, going on, at some point in the future.

**2. Negative sentence:** Circle the **NEGATIVE** words.

1 Unlike her home country, she will <u>not</u> be staying in with him.
2 He will not be participating in the all-weather race.
3 In future, we will not be making any similar mistakes.
4 I will not be applying for a driver license until 18.
5 Scientist predicts that cars will not be flying in air in 2030.
6 The minister will not be giving a speech on international affairs.

**Rule:** Insert not after the first auxiliary verb will.

### 3. Interrogative sentence:

**Yes-no question:** Circle **FORMS** of future progressive tense.

**Wh-question:** Circle both the **WH-WORD** and **FORMS** of future progressive tense.

1	Will you be passing the post office when you're out?
2	What will you be doing in ten years' time?
3	What time will we be spending weekend on moon?
4	Will their family be lying on the beach this time next week?
5	When will cars be running on the road without fuel?
6	Will people be living as long as they wish in 50 years?

#### Rules:

Structure:

Yes-no question: Will + subject + be + doing?

Wh-question: Wh-word + will + subject + be + doing?

### 4. Differences between simple future and future progressive:

Context: Ellen is going to Beijing tonight.

(a) This is her first visit to Beijing. Guess what she will do.

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(b) Ellen has many plans for the week. Write down her plan.

10:00 Monday      visiting The Palace Museum

13:00 Monday      eating Peking duck

9:00 Tue            visiting the Great Wall

...

At 10 o'clock on Monday, Ellen will be \_\_\_\_\_

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**Find out the differences.**

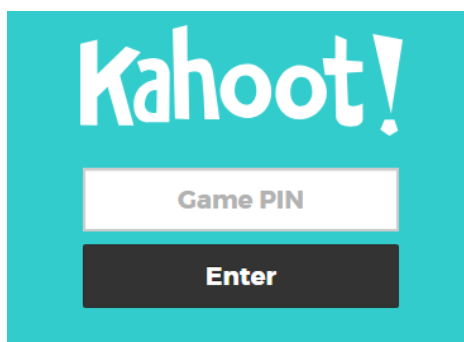
	<b>Part (a)</b>	<b>Part (b)</b>
<b>Tense</b>	<u>simple future</u>	<u>future progressive</u>
<b>Structure</b>	<u>will do</u>	<u>will be doing</u>
<b>Usage</b>	talk about things that <u>will happen in the future</u>	talk about things that <u>will be happening at a certain time in the future</u>

## Stage 3: Practice

### A. Kahoot game (individual work)

Purpose: to consolidate students' knowledge on future progressive and simple future.

Step one: Type in [kahoot.it](https://kahoot.it)



Step two: Input the game PIN and join the game.



Step three: Choose the right answer as quickly as you can.



Here are the Kahoot questions:

1	We <u>will be writing</u> essays in the English class at this time next Monday.
2	No one <u>will take</u> him seriously.
3	My friend <u>will be taking</u> the IETLS exam at this time tomorrow.
4	I <u>will not be studying</u> on Friday evening. Do you want to go out?
5	What <u>will</u> you <u>be doing</u> tomorrow afternoon at 3 PM?
6	My brothers and I <u>will not be camping</u> this weekend. We will be too busy studying



	for exams.
7	A new system of 'goods on approval' <u>will take</u> effect from September 2020.
8	The detail needed <u>will depend</u> on the specific requirements of the banks.
9	Please don't call me after 11 PM. I <u>will be sleeping</u> .
10	What do you think our teachers <u>will be doing</u> at this time tomorrow?
11	I <u>will be reading</u> a book at 10:00 AM tomorrow. What will you be doing at that time?
12	The type of rucksack you need <u>will depend</u> entirely on what you want to do with it.
13	We <u>will be having</u> a meeting at this time tomorrow afternoon.
14	And no one <u>will know</u> about it -- except us!
15	At this time next Saturday, they <u>will be doing</u> exercises in the park.

## B. Blank-filling

Fill in each blank with the simple future tense or future progressive.

- 1 We can wear masks and no one will know who we are. (know)
- 2 It will make me crazy, Felix. (make)
- 3 He will be making a personal report to the Prime Minister this afternoon. (make)
- 4 The government will continue to work strenuously for a political solution acceptable to all parties. (continue)
- 5 I will be playing in the reserves at Newcastle tomorrow night. (play)
- 6 Most farmers will be doing what I am doing. (do)
- 7 No one will say a thing about her separation. (say)
- 8 Six months after capture the elephants will be working in the forests for their new owners. (work)
- 9 We will be making presentations at the following venues during May and June. (make)
- 10 Mr Wilkins will be working at the library during the next year. (work)

Note: Both simple future and future progressive are acceptable in some sentences above (e.g. 3, 7, 8, 9).

## Stage 4: Production

### A. Reading

Here is a letter written by Past-self on [www.futureme.org](http://www.futureme.org), where people can set the time to receive their own letters. Read the letter and answer the questions.

Dear Future Me,

It's 2020. Right now, I am a sixth grader in a Beijing primary school.

In thirty years, I will be living in the United States and learning to speak a foreign language, probably Japanese. I will be working in a beautiful office with a great view of New York, and I will hopefully be running my own business. I won't be raising a big family because I will be working hard. However, I won't work long hours all my life because I will be taking care of my family - two kids, a dog and a cat.

Me Today

1. When did Past-self write this letter? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Where will he/she be living in 30 years? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Will he/she be enjoying work-life balance? How do you know?

\_\_\_\_\_



## B. Writing to Future Me

It is your turn to write a letter ‘twenty/thirty/forty/fifty years from now’. Then send it to yourself at this magic website [www.futureme.org](http://www.futureme.org). You will receive the letter at the time you set! Don’t forget to use **simple future tense** and **future progressive**.

You can talk about your job, family, life, hobbies, etc.

<p>_____ years from now</p>
<p><u>Dear Future Self,</u></p>
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