Future Continuous Tense

Shall \ will + be + Present Participle: working

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| I  We | Shall be | working |
| He  She  It  They  You  We | Will be | working |

1. I shall be cleaning the room when you come.
2. We shall be watching TV tonight.
3. I shall already be working when you return.
4. I shall be working late at office.
5. We shall be working until ten o’clock tonight.
6. He will be reading until he finishes this chapter.
7. They will be returning late.
8. I will be fixing my car.
9. The moon is full and it will be shining brightly.
10. I feel I shall be asking you the same question tomorrow morning.

Question form

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Shall | I  We | Be working |
| Will | He  She  They  You  It | Be working |

1. Will you be working in the garden this afternoon?
2. Will you be staying with us for a few more days?
3. How long will you be staying in San Francisco?
4. What shall we be doing this evening?
5. Will you be meeting her at the station tomorrow?
6. Will you be visiting your friend in New York this week-end?
7. Will you be having your English lesson at this time on Wednesday?
8. What will you be doing when the teacher will come into the classroom?

Future Continuous Tense expresses an action which will be going on at a definite moment in the future. The time of the action may be stated directly (at five o’clock) or expressed by another action (when you come).

Negative form

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| I  We | Shall not be | working |
| They  You  He  She  It | Will not be | working |

1. I shall not be working late in the library.
2. He will not be listening to the radio this evening.
3. They will be here this afternoon.
4. They won’t be visiting their relatives in the USA this year.
5. You will not be disturb me. I shall not be doing my home-work tonight.
6. I shall not be watching my favourite TV programme tonight.
7. Who will you be playing tennis with this time.
8. They will not be doing laundry tonight as they are going to visit their friends in the country.

Dialogue

1. Did you say you’re going to take a vocation next month?
2. Yes,my family and I will be staying in New York for a week. We want to visit the museums and see some plays. You can take a vocation too, can’t you?
3. No, there’s too much work to do. May be next year though.

**Will be doing and will have done**

**A.** Study this example situation:

Kevin loves football and this evening there is a big football match on television. The match begins at 7.30 and ends at 9.15. Paul wants to see Kevin the same evening and wants to know what time to come to his house.

PAUL: Is it all right if I come at about 8.30?

KEVIN: No, I'll be watching the football then.

PAUL: Well, what about 9.30?

KEVIN: Fine. The match will have finished by then.

**B.** 'I will be doing something' (future continuous) = I will be in the middle of doing something. The football match begins at 7.30 and ends at 9.15. So during this time, for example at 8.30, Kevin will be watching the match. Another example:

\* I'm going on holiday on Saturday. This time next week I'll be lying on a beach or

swimming in the sea.

Compare will be (do)ing and will (do):

\* Don't phone me between 7 and 8. We'll be having dinner then.

\* Let's wait for Mary to arrive and then we'll have dinner.

Compare will be ~ing with other continuous forms:

\* At 10 o'clock yesterday, Sally was in her office. She was working. (past)

It's 10 o'clock now. She is in her office. She is working. (present)

At 10 o'clock tomorrow, she will be in her office. She will be working.

**C.** We also use will be doing in a different way: to talk about complete actions in the future:

\* A: If you see Sally, can you ask her to phone me?

B: Sure. I'll be seeing her this evening, so I'll tell her then.

\* What time will your friends be arriving tomorrow?

In these examples will be ~ing is similar to the present continuous for the future. (See Unit 19A.)

You can use Will you be ~ing ...? to ask about somebody's plans, especially if you want something or want them to do something. For example:

\* A: Will you be passing the post office when you're out?

B: Probably. Why?

A: I need some stamps. Could you get me some?

\* A: Will you be using your bicycle this evening?

B: No. Do you want to borrow it?

**EXERCISES**

**1. Read about Colin. Then you have to tick (V) the sentences which are true. In each group of sentences at least one is true.**

Colin goes to work every day. He leaves home at 8 o'clock and arrives at work at about 8.45. He starts work immediately and continues until 12.30 when he has lunch (which takes about half an hour). He starts work again at 1.15 and goes home at exactly 4.30. Every day he follows the same routine and tomorrow will be no exception.

1. At 7.45

b. he'll have left the house

c. he'll be at home (V)

d. he'll be having breakfast (V)

a. he'll be leaving the house

2. At 8.15

a. he'll be leaving the house

b. he'll have left the house

c. he'll have arrived at work

d. he'll be arriving at work

3. At 9.15

a. he'll be working

b. he'll start work

c. he'll have started work

d. he'll be arriving at work

4. At 12.45

a. he'll have lunch

b. he'll behaving lunch

c. he'll have finished his lunch

d. he'll have started his lunch

5. At 4 o'clock

a. he'll have finished work

b. he'll finish work

c. he'll be working

d. he won't have finished work

6. At 4.45

a. he'll leave work

b. he'll be leaving work

c. he'll have left work

d. he'll have arrived home