

Future continuous and future perfect (continuous)

A Future continuous: I will be doing

Reminder → B8

We can use the future continuous to talk about:

(i) something that is predicted to start before a particular point of future time, and that may continue after this point (often the result of a previous decision or arrangement):

- ☐ When it goes into orbit, the spacecraft **will be carrying** 30 kilos of plutonium.
- ☐ Anna **will be helping** us to organise the party.

(ii) a future activity that is part of the normal course of events or that is one of a repeated or regular series of events:

- ☐ Dr Lin **will be giving** the same talk in room 103 at ten next Thursday.
- ☐ **Will you be driving** to work, as usual?

We can often use either the future continuous or the present continuous when we talk about arranged activities or events in the future (see also Unit 10). Compare:

- ☐ We **will be leaving** for Istanbul at 7:00 in the evening. (timetabled; *or ... are leaving ...*) *and*
- ☐ When the race starts later this afternoon the drivers **will be hoping** for drier weather than last year. (*not ... are hoping ...*; not reporting the details of a programme or timetable)

B When we don't want to indicate willingness, intention, invitation, etc., we prefer to use the future continuous instead of **will**. For example, if guests have stayed longer than you wanted, and you don't know when they are leaving, you might ask:

- ☐ **Will you be staying** with us again tonight? (asking about their plans) *rather than*
- ☐ **Will you stay** with us again tonight? (they might think this is an invitation)

C Future perfect and future perfect continuous: I will have done and I will have been doing

We use the future perfect to say that something will be ended, completed, or achieved by a particular point in the future:

- ☐ *By the time you get home* I **will have cleaned** the house from top to bottom.
- ☐ I'm sure his awful behaviour **will soon have been forgotten**. (= passive form)

We use the future perfect continuous to emphasise the duration of an activity in progress at a particular point in the future:

- ☐ *Next year* I **will have been working** in the company for 30 years.

With both the future perfect and future perfect continuous we usually mention the future time (e.g. *By the time you get home ...*, *Next year ...*).

D The future continuous, future perfect and future perfect continuous can also be used to say what we believe or imagine is happening around now:

- ☐ We could ask to borrow Joe's car. He **won't be using** it today – he went to work by bike.
- ☐ Most people **will have forgotten** the fire by now.
- ☐ Tennis fans **will have been queuing** at Wimbledon all day to buy tickets.

We can use the future perfect continuous to say what we think was happening at a point in the past:

- ☐ Motorist Vicky Hesketh **will have been asking** herself whether speed cameras are a good idea after she was fined £100 last week for driving at 33 mph in a 30 mph zone.

- 11.1** Complete both sentences in each pair with one verb from the box. Use the future continuous (**will / won't be + -ing**) in one sentence and **will / won't + infinitive** in the other. **A & B**

give leave move use work

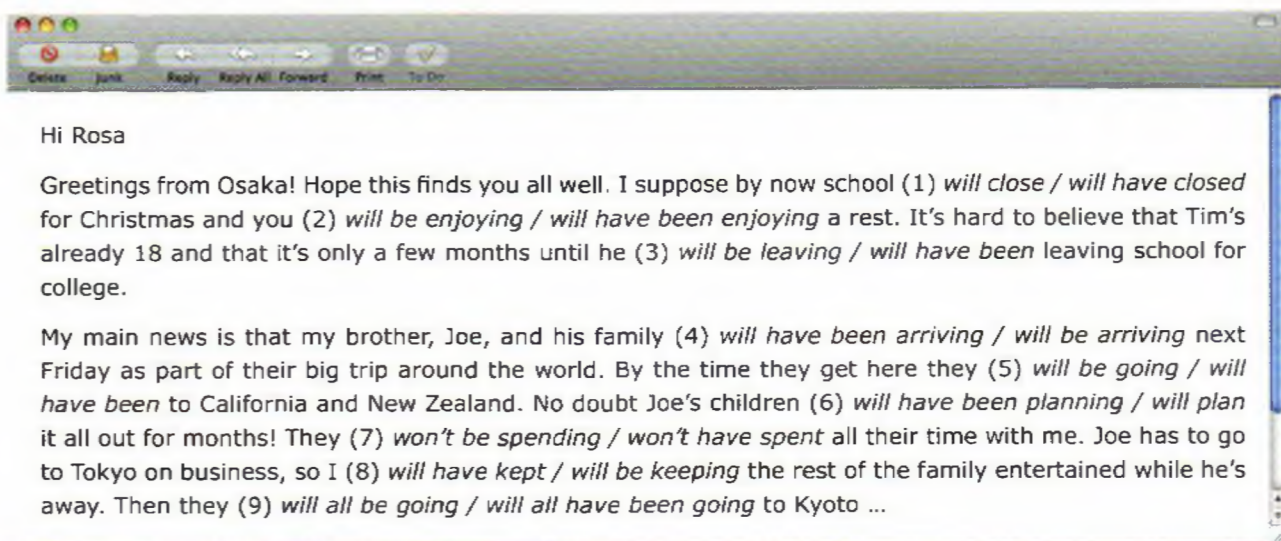
- 1 a We _____ in an hour or so, so make sure your suitcase is packed.
b Without more cheap housing, families _____ the village and find homes in town.
- 2 a _____ you _____ late at the office again? I want to know when to cook.
b A: We need to get this order sent out before Monday.
b: Well, I _____ over the weekend if that will help.
- 3 a I _____ my car until next week, so you can borrow it if you like.
b My grandad _____ a computer. He says he's very happy with his old typewriter.
- 4 a Is your suitcase very heavy? I _____ you a hand with it if you like.
b Dr Sankey _____ evidence at the trial of James Morgan next week.
- 5 a He's parked his car across our drive and says he _____ it. Shall I call the police?
b The two schools _____ to a single campus at the beginning of September.

- 11.2** Make sentences with a beginning from (i), a verb from (ii) (either in the future perfect or future perfect continuous), and an ending from (iii). **C & D**

(i)	(ii)	(iii)
1 The weather forecast says that the rain ...	act achieve clear finish discover read	... the objective we set ourselves when we took over.
2 If the company is making a profit by the end of the year then we by the morning and tomorrow will be dry. ... for 50 years, and shows no sign of retiring from the theatre.
3 In two years' time Morneau the report before the end of the week.
4 I am confident that I it for a month, and I'm still only half way.
5 This book on Proust is really difficult. On Saturday I there have been some late changes to the conference programme.
6 As delegates who arrived early ...		

- 1 The weather forecast says that the rain will have cleared by the morning and tomorrow will be dry.

- 11.3** Here is part of an email from Emily, an English teacher in Japan, to her friend Rosa. Underline the correct option. **A & D**



Hi Rosa

Greetings from Osaka! Hope this finds you all well. I suppose by now school (1) *will close* / *will have closed* for Christmas and you (2) *will be enjoying* / *will have been enjoying* a rest. It's hard to believe that Tim's already 18 and that it's only a few months until he (3) *will be leaving* / *will have been leaving* school for college.

My main news is that my brother, Joe, and his family (4) *will have been arriving* / *will be arriving* next Friday as part of their big trip around the world. By the time they get here they (5) *will be going* / *will have been* to California and New Zealand. No doubt Joe's children (6) *will have been planning* / *will plan* it all out for months! They (7) *won't be spending* / *won't have spent* all their time with me. Joe has to go to Tokyo on business, so I (8) *will have kept* / *will be keeping* the rest of the family entertained while he's away. Then they (9) *will all be going* / *will all have been going* to Kyoto ...

Be to + infinitive; be about to + infinitive

A

Be to + infinitive is commonly used in news reports to talk about events that are likely to happen in the near future:

- ☐ Police officers **are to visit** every home in the area.
- ☐ The main Rome-to-Naples railway line **is to be reopened** today. (passive form)

It is also used to talk about formal or official arrangements, formal instructions, and to give orders:

- ☐ You **are not to leave** the school without my permission.
- ☐ The European Parliament **is to introduce** a new law on safety at work.
- ☐ Children **are not to be left** unsupervised in the museum. (passive form)

Passive forms are often used to make orders and instructions more impersonal.

Note that we only use **be to + infinitive** to talk about future events that can be controlled by people. Compare:

- ☐ In the next few years, thousands of speed cameras **are to appear** on major roads. (*or ... will appear ...*) *and*
- ☐ Scientists say they can't predict when or where the disease **will appear** again. (*not ... the disease is to appear again; the appearance of the disease can't be controlled*)
- ☐ The President **is to return** to Brazil later today. (*or ... will return ...*) *and*
- ☐ The comet **will return** to our solar system in around 500 years. (*not The comet is to return ...; the movement of the comet can't be controlled*)

However, when **be to + infinitive** refers to the future from the past (see Unit 14B), we often use it to describe what happened to someone, whether they were able to influence events or not:

- ☐ Matthew Flinders sailed past Tasmania in 1770, but it **was to be** a further 30 years before he landed there.
- ☐ Clare Atkins **was to write** two more books about her experiences in Africa before her death in 1997.

B

We often use **be to + infinitive** in **if-clauses** to say that something must happen first (in the main clause) before something else can happen (in the **if-clause**):

- ☐ *If* the human race **is to survive**, we must look at environmental problems now.
- ☐ The law needs to be revised *if* justice **is to be done**. (passive form)

Compare the use of **be to + infinitive** and the present simple for the future in **if-clauses**:

- ☐ If Lopez **is to win** gold at the next Olympics, he needs to work on his fitness. *and*
- ☐ If Lopez **wins** gold at the next Olympics, he has said that he will retire from athletics.

Note how the order of cause and effects in **if-sentences** is reversed with these two tenses:

- ☐ If Lopez **is to win** gold ... (= effect), he needs to work ... (= cause) *and*
- ☐ If Lopez **wins** gold ... (= cause), he has said that he will retire ... (= effect)

C

We use **be about to + infinitive** mainly in conversation to say that something will (not) happen in the very near future:

- ☐ We're **about to eat**. Do you want to join us?
- ☐ Appearing on TV might make her famous, but it's **not about to make** her rich.
- ☐ A: Why don't you switch it off and turn it back on again?
B: Yes, I **was about to try** that when you came in.
(*not Yes, I was to try ...*) (referring to the future from the past)



12.1 Complete these news extracts using the verbs in brackets. Use **be to + infinitive** if possible and **will + infinitive** if not. Use active or passive forms as necessary. **A**

- Jon Stobbar has written his first new play for 15 years. Its first performance (stage) at the New Victoria Theatre.
- The new safety system (stop) trains automatically if they pass a danger signal.
- Stafford Boys' School (merge) with the nearby Bicton Girls' School to form a new co-educational establishment.
- There are fears that sea levels (rise) catastrophically in the next 50 years.
- The old design and technology programme (replace) with a new computer science course.

Now use the verbs in the box to do the same in 6 to 10.

become create increase receive retire succeed

- Managing Director Lars Lindberg, 59, this summer a year early. He by Christina Fontana, who joined the company last year.
- As the temperatures fall with the onset of winter, the refugee crisis more severe.
- Production line staff at the Heathcote garden furniture factory in Northam a pay rise following a big new order from Italy.
- Seventy new posts at the factory following a major investment by the parent company in the United States.
- The recent rapid rise in house prices in the south-east the demand for higher salaries among lower-paid workers.

12.2 Underline the correct answers. In some cases both alternatives are possible. **B & C**

- You need to work much harder if you *have* / *are to have* any chance of passing the exam.
- My sister *is to start* / *is about to start* a PhD in Physics.
- Mrs Patel is likely to become the Foreign Minister if the party *wins* / *is to win* power at the next election.
- If you *enjoy* / *are to enjoy* romantic comedies, then this is a film you must see.
- A: Can you type this letter for me?
B: Sorry, I'm *just to go* / *'m just about to go* home. It'll have to wait until tomorrow.
- If Beckman *recovers* / *is to recover* from a foot injury, it seems certain that he will play in Saturday's match against Spain.
- If the university *keeps* / *is to keep* its international reputation, it must first invest in better facilities for students.
- Jonas Fischer has denied that he *is to resign* / *is about to resign* as marketing manager.
- It started snowing an hour ago, and from the look of those clouds things *are to get* / *are about to get* a lot worse.
- If the railway system *is improved* / *is to be improved*, the government should invest substantial amounts of money now.



Do so; such

A

Do so

We use **do so** (or **does so**, **did so**, **doing so**, etc.) instead of repeating a verb phrase (a verb and what follows it to complete its meaning) when the context makes clear what we are talking about:

- ☐ She won in 2012 and seems likely to **do so** (= win) again this year.
- ☐ Dr Lawson said, 'Sit down.' Katia **did so** (= sat down), and explained her problem.
- ☐ The climbers will try again today to reach the summit of the mountain. Their chances of **doing so** (= reaching the summit of the mountain) are better than they were last week. (In very formal English we can also use **so doing**.)
- ☐ When he was asked to check the figures, he claimed that he **had** already **done so**. (= checked the figures)

Do so is most often used in formal spoken and written English. In informal English we can use **do it** or **do that** instead:

- ☐ Mrs Chen waved as she walked past. She **does so / it / that** every morning.
- ☐ Ricardo told me to put in a new battery. I **did so / it / that**, but the radio still doesn't work.

We can also use **do** alone rather than **do so** in less formal English, especially after modals or perfect tenses (see also B):

- ☐ 'Will this program work on your computer?' 'It *should do*.'
- ☐ I told you that I'd finish the work by today, and I *have done*. ('have' is stressed here)

B

We can use **do so** instead of verbs that describe *actions*, but we avoid **do so** with verbs that describe *states* and *habitual actions*. Compare:

- ☐ 65% of the members voted for Katie Brown this time, whereas 84% **did so** last year.
- ☐ Kenyon confessed to the murder, although he only **did so** after a number of witnesses had identified him as the killer.
- ☐ I gave her the medicine, and I take full responsibility for **doing so**. *and*
- ☐ Lars doesn't like Facebook but Emma **does**.
- ☐ He earned a lot more than I **did**.
- ☐ I don't have time to go swimming every day, but I *usually do*.

C

Such

We can use **such + (a / an) + noun** to refer back to something mentioned before, with the meaning 'of this / that kind'. We use **such + noun** when the noun is uncountable or plural, and **such + a / an + noun** when the noun is countable and singular. **Such** is used in this way mainly in formal speech and writing:

- ☐ The students refer to teachers by their first names and will often criticise them for badly prepared lessons. **Such behaviour** is unacceptable in most schools. (*more informally* Behaviour like this ...)
- ☐ When asked about rumours that the company is preparing to lose more than 200 jobs, a spokeswoman said: 'I know of no **such plans**.' (*more informally* ... no plans of this kind.)
- ☐ They needed someone who was both an excellent administrator and manager. **Such a person** was not easy to find. (*more informally* A person like this ...)
- ☐ We allow both men and women to have time off work to look after children. We were the first department to introduce **such a scheme**. (*more informally* ... a scheme like this.)

63.1 Join each pair of sentences with either **and** or **but**, replacing the repeated verb + object / complement with a form of **do** followed by **so**. **A**

- Johnson never won an Olympic medal. He twice came close to winning an Olympic medal.
Johnson never won an Olympic medal, but twice came close to doing so.
- She was asked to teach more classes. She was happy to teach more classes.
- My French hosts gave me snails to eat. I ate them very reluctantly.
- The company wanted to build a new dam on the site. They were prevented from building the dam by local opposition.
- All EU countries agreed to implement the new regulations on recycling plastic. So far only Finland and Austria have implemented the new regulations.
- The water freezes in the cracks in rocks. As it freezes, it expands.

63.2 Complete these sentences with a form of **do** (+ **so** if possible). **B**

- If you have not already handed in the form, then please _____ without delay.
- Olav drives much faster than you _____.
- He jumped down from the window, but in _____ twisted his ankle.
- I know that many people don't enjoy Felipe's blog, but I _____.
- Anyone crossing the railway _____ at their own risk.
- I thought Julie was joking when she said these apples smell like oranges. But they _____!
- When we play tennis Leyla usually wins, and she gets upset if I _____.
- She pointed to the old box, her hand shaking as she _____.

63.3 Complete the sentences with **such** or **such a** / **an** followed by a word from the box in the singular or plural. **C**

claim destruction ~~device~~ project research tactic

- Manufacturers often claim that their washing machines have built-in computers, but is there really a computer in *such a device*?
- After Professor Sharma spoke about her work on climate change, she called on the government to put more money into _____.
- Television is sometimes said to harm children's social development, yet the evidence for _____ is often lacking.
- Building a new power station would undoubtedly create new jobs, but has the environmental impact of _____ been considered fully?
- The earthquake demolished thousands of buildings. The country has rarely seen _____ before.
- United played very defensively in the second half, but _____ were criticised by the team's supporters.

63.4 Rewrite the sentences in 63.3 to make them less formal. **C**

- ...but is there really a computer in a device like this? / ... like that?*

More on leaving out words after auxiliary verbs

A

To avoid repeating words from a previous clause or sentence we use an auxiliary verb (**be, have, can, will, would**, etc.) instead of a whole verb group or instead of a verb and what follows it:

- ☐ She says she's finished, but I don't think she **has**. (*instead of ... has finished.*)
- ☐ 'Would any of you like to go to Paris?' 'I **would**.' (*instead of I would like to go to Paris.*)

If there is more than one auxiliary verb in the previous clause or sentence, we leave out all the auxiliary verbs except the first instead of repeating the main verb. Alternatively, we can use two (or more) auxiliary verbs:

- ☐ 'They **could have been** delayed by the snow.' 'Yes, they **could**.' (*or ... could have (been).*)

B

If there is no auxiliary verb in the previous clause or sentence, or if the auxiliary is a form of **do**, we can use a form of **do** instead of repeating the main verb. We use **do** when the main verb is a present simple form and **did** when it is a past simple form:

- ☐ Mona **plays** golf on Saturdays, and I **do** too. (*instead of ... and I play golf on Saturdays too.; '... and so do I' is also possible*)
- ☐ 'I **didn't steal** the money.' 'No one thinks that you **did**.' (*instead of ... thinks that you stole it.; 'No one thinks so' is also possible.*)

If **be** is the main verb in the previous clause or sentence, we repeat a form of the verb **be**:

- ☐ 'The children **are** noisy again.' 'They always **are**.'

If **have** or **have got** is the main verb in the previous clause or sentence, we can usually use a form of either **do** or **have**:

- ☐ 'Do you think I **have** a chance of winning?' 'Yes, I think you **have**.' (*or ... you do.; 'Yes, I think so' is also possible.*)
- ☐ Even if he **hasn't got** a map himself, he may know someone who **has**. (*or ... who does.*)

However, if we use **have + noun** in the previous clause or sentence to talk about actions (**have a shower, have a shave, have a good time**, etc.) we prefer **do**:

- ☐ I wasn't expecting to *have a good time* at the party, but I **did**.

Note that sometimes we can use either **do, be** or **have** with a similar meaning (see also C):

- ☐ I asked Clara to tidy her room, and she **has / did**. ('has' replaces 'has tidied her room'; 'did' replaces 'tidied her room'.)

C

If we use **have** as an auxiliary verb, we can often follow it with **done** instead of repeating the main verb. This happens particularly in spoken English:

- ☐ 'She's never made a mistake before.' 'Well, she **has (done)** this time.'

However, this is usually not possible when the verb being substituted is intransitive:

- ☐ 'They've already gone.' 'I don't think Daniel **has**.' (*not ... Daniel has done.*)

Similarly, after a *modal* auxiliary verb (**can, could, may, might, must, ought to, shall, should, will, would**) we can use **do**, particularly in spoken English:

- ☐ 'Will you be seeing David today?' 'I **might (do)**.'

Sometimes we can use **be** instead of **do** with a similar meaning (see also D):

- ☐ 'Will you be seeing Felix today?' 'I **might (do / be)**.' ('do' replaces 'see Felix today'; 'be' replaces 'be seeing Felix today'.)

D

If we use **be** as an *auxiliary* verb in the previous clause or sentence, we can use **be** after a modal:

- ☐ 'Is Ella staying for lunch?' 'Yes, I think she **will (be)**.' (*or ... she will do.*)

However, if **be** is used as a *main* verb in the previous clause or sentence, or as an auxiliary verb within a passive, we can usually leave out **be** after a modal in informal contexts only. Compare:

- ☐ 'Lina's late again.' 'I thought she **might (be)**.' *and*
- ☐ It has been found that the comet is made entirely of gas, as it was predicted it **would be**.

64.1 Make B's replies shorter by crossing out some of the words in italics. Give alternatives if possible. **A**

- 1 A: Have you ever played squash before? B: Yes, I *have played squash before.*
- 2 A: I suppose we should have booked tickets. B: Yes, we *should have booked tickets.*
- 3 A: Will you be staying in Brazil permanently? B: Yes, we *will be staying in Brazil permanently.*
- 4 A: All the parking places will probably have been taken by now.
B: Yes, I'm sure they *will have been taken by now.*
- 5 A: Have you had dinner yet? B: No, I *haven't had dinner yet.*
- 6 A: Are you going to Katalin's party? B: Yes, I *am going to Katalin's party.*
- 7 A: If Diane hadn't given you a lift, you would have missed the train.
B: Yes, I *would have missed the train.*
- 8 A: Can you see Joe anywhere? B: No, I *can't see him anywhere.*
- 9 A: Did you see that cyclist go through the red light? He couldn't have been looking.
B: No, he *couldn't have been looking.*

64.2 Complete the sentences with an appropriate form of **do**, **be** or **have** (plus any alternatives). Put brackets around the word if it can be omitted, and write **(done)** after forms of **have** where this might be added. **B & C**

- 1 I haven't finished doing the translation yet, but I will have (done) by tomorrow morning.
- 2 As a child I always enjoyed watching cartoons on TV, and I still _____.
- 3 A: Has the post arrived yet? B: No, I don't think it _____.
- 4 Have a shower if you want, but take a towel from the cupboard when you _____.
- 5 A: It costs a fortune to rent a flat in the city centre. B: I'm sure it must _____.
- 6 I was hoping Ryan had an electric drill that I could borrow, but he _____.
- 7 I'm not a member of the tennis club myself, but I know someone who _____.
- 8 I told the class that they had to hand in their books by nine and they all _____.
- 9 A: Have you got a copy of *Great Expectations*? B: Yes, I think I _____.
- 10 A: I've got £100 with me. Will that be enough? B: It should _____.

64.3 Complete the sentences with **might**, **should**, **will** or **would**, (plus any alternatives). If necessary, write **be** after the modal, or **(be)** if it is possible to omit it. **D**

- 1 It's not snowing at the moment, but they say it will / might (be).
- 2 Chris was cleaning the house when I got home, as I hoped he _____.
- 3 A: Are they staying for lunch? B: They _____ . I'll ask them.
- 4 A: Are you revising a lot for the exams? B: Not as much as I _____.
- 5 The company has not been as successful as it was claimed it _____.
- 6 Natalie says she's very sorry – as she _____.
- 7 The book is a bestseller, as we hoped it _____.
- 8 A: My photograph was awarded first prize. B: I thought it _____.

