



English Language I

First Course UBEN 101

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Chapter 1

Tenses

1.1 Past Tenses

1.1.1 Past Simple Tense

Form

Positive statement: Subject + Verb(past) + Complement .

Negative statement: Subject + Did + Not + Verb(Inf.) + Complement .

Question: Did + Subject + Verb(Inf.) + Complement ?

Negative question: Did + Subject + Not + Verb(Inf.) + Complement ?

Examples:

Positive statement: I watched, He watched.

Negative statement: I did not watch (I didn't watch), He did not watch (He didn't watch)

Question: Did you watch?, Did he watch?

Negative question: Did you not watch? (Didn't you watch?), Didn't he watch?

Spelling

1. regular verbs

We add -d (not -ed) to the verbs that end with -e: like - liked

If the verb ends with a consonant and -y, we change -y into -i: carry - carried, try - tried.

But: play - played, because this verb ends with a vowel and -y.

If the verb has only one syllable and ends with a vowel and a consonant, we double the consonant to keep the same pronunciation: stop - stopped. The same rule applies to the verbs that end with - l: travel - travelled.

2. irregular verbs

All the irregular verbs have different forms: go - went, buy - bought, cut - cut etc. The question and negative are made in the same way: I went - Did you go? No, I did not go.

Notes

We do not use the auxiliary verb did with the verb to be and modal verbs.

Were you a student? Was he in London? I was not at home. He was not happy.

Could you sing? Could he come? I could not swim. He could not stay.

The auxiliary verb did is not used in questions beginning with wh- pronouns (who, which) in case that the pronoun is the subject of the question.

Who met you? (who is the subject)

Which train arrived on time? (which train is the subject)

But: Who did you meet? Which train did you miss? (who and which train are the objects)

The negative question normally shows a surprise.

Didn't you know it?

Use

1. We use the past simple for activities or situations that were completed in the past at a definite time.

(a) The time can be given in the sentence:

I came home at 6 o'clock.

When he was a child, he didn't live in a house.

(b) The time is asked about:

When did they get married?

(c) The time is not given in the sentence, but it is clear from a context that the action or situation finished in the past.

He is 20 years old. He was born in Canada.

I've been to Iceland. (present perfect) - Did you enjoy it? (past simple)

2. We use it for repeated actions in the past.

We walked to school every day. - And did you ever go by bus?

3. It is used in stories to describe events that follow each other.

Charles entered the hall and looked around. He took off his coat and put it on a chair. He was at home.

1.1.2 Past Continuous Tense

Form

Positive statement: Subject + Was / Were + Verb(ing) + Complement .

Negative statement: Subject + Was / Were + Not + Verb(ing) + Complement .

Question: Was / Were + Subject + Verb(ing) + Complement ?

Negative question: Was / Were + Subject + Not + Verb(ing) + Complement ?

Examples:

Positive statement: I was watching, You were watching

Negative statement: I was not watching (I wasn't watching), You were not watching (You weren't watching)

Question: Were you watching? Was he watching?

Negative question: Were you not watching? (Weren't you watching?) Was he not watching? (Wasn't he watching?)

The past continuous tense is formed with the past tense of the verb to be and the present participle (-ing form).

Use

We use the continuous tense for actions or situations in the past that were not completed.

From 10 to 12 I was washing my car. I was in the garage.

(I did not finish my work. It was in progress. I started before 10 and finished after 12.)

The sun was setting. The beach was changing its colours.

(The sun was still in the sky when I was watching it.)

Compare this sentence with the past simple, which is used for completed activities:

From 10 to 12 I washed my car.

(I finished my work. I started at 10 and finished at 12.)

Finally, the sun set. It was dark and we did not see the beach any more. (The sun completely disappeared.)

We use it for continuous, uninterrupted activities. If the action is interrupted (something is done in more intervals or we did more things one after another), we must use the past simple.

Tom was watching TV on Sunday.

Tom watched TV in the morning and in the evening. Yesterday I was working in the garden.

Yesterday I worked in the garden and on my house.

The past continuous tense is typically used:

1. Combined with the past simple tense to describe the idea that the action in the past continuous started before the action in the past simple and continued after it. When she saw me, I was looking at the trees. (These two activities happened at the same time. I was looking at the trees for some time and she saw me in the middle of it.)

Compare with the past simple: When she saw me, I looked at the trees. (These two activities happened one after another. First she saw me and then I looked at the trees.)

2. With a point in time to express an action that started before that time and continued after it. At 8 o'clock Jane was having a bath. (At 8 o'clock she was in the middle of the activity. She did not finish it.)

Compare with the simple tense:

At 8 o'clock Jane had a bath.

(She started the activity at 8 o'clock and finished it.)

3. To describe a situation, while the past simple is used to tell a story.

The sun was shining. Jack and Jill were lying on the beach. Jack was reading a book and Jill was sleeping.

All of a sudden, Jack raised his head. Jill woke up. Something happened.

4. For incomplete activities in contrast with the past simple, which is used for completed activities.

I was reading a book yesterday. And today I am going to continue.

I read the book yesterday. I can lend it to you now.

5. The past continuous can be used instead of the simple to show a more casual action:

I was talking to my neighbour yesterday. We had a nice chat.

(I did not do it on purpose. We just met in the street.)

I talked to my neighbour yesterday. And he promised to help me.

(I did it on purpose. I needed to ask him for help.)

There are two past perfect tenses in the English language.

1.1.3 Past Perfect Simple Tense

It is formed with the auxiliary verb "had" + past participle (-ed ending for regular verbs, e.g. worked, travelled, tried, different forms for irregular verbs, e.g. written, made, sung).

Form

Positive statement: Subject + Had + Verb(pp.) + Complement .

Negative statement: Subject + Had + Not + Verb(pp.) + Complement .

Question: Had + Subject + Verb(pp.) + Complement ?

Negative question: Had + Subject + Not + Verb(pp.) + Complement ?

Examples:

Positive statement: I had done.

Negative statement: I had not done (I hadn't done).

Question: Had I done ?

Negative question: Had I not done ? (Hadn't I done ?)

Use

1. We use the past perfect to make it clear that an action was completed before another action in the past.

The door bell rang at last. I had been in the room since breakfast.

(The bell rang at noon. I came in the morning - before that.)

When I arrived there Sarah had already left.

(I arrived after lunch. Sara went before lunch.)

I was so hungry! I had not eaten anything since the morning.

(It was late at night.)

2. It is used to refer to an activity that was completed before a point of time in the past.

In 2005 I had lived in the same place for ten years.

Had you ever travelled by plane before your holiday in Spain?

Past perfect in time clauses

In time clauses after when we can use either the past tense or the past perfect tense. We use the past tense if we want to express that the first action led to the second and that the second followed the first very closely.

When the film ended he switched off the television.

The past perfect is used when we want to make it clear that the first action was completed before the second started and that there is no relation between them.

When she had washed the dishes she had a cup of tea.

But:

When she washed the dishes she put the plates in the cupboard.

If we use after in a time clause the past perfect is much more usual.

After Zidane had scored the goal the fans went wild.

We use the past perfect similarly with: as soon as, until, before, by the time.

He got up as soon as he had heard the alarm clock.

We did not stop until we had reached the coast.

Maria had finished her meal by the time I arrived.

Before she cut her hair she had consulted it.

1.1.4 Past Perfect Continuous Tense

It is formed with the auxiliaries had been + present participle (-ing ending, e.g. working, trying, writing, singing).

Form

Positive statement: Subject + Had Been Verb(ing) + Complement .

Negative statement: Subject + Had + Not been + Verb(ing) + Complement .

Question: Had + Subject + Been Verb(ing) + Complement ?

Negative question: Had + Subject + Not been + Verb(ing) + Complement ?

Examples:

Positive statement: I had been doing.

Negative statement: I had not been doing (I hadn't been doing).

Question: Had I been doing ?

Negative question: Had I not been doing ?

Use

The past perfect continuous is used for activities that began before a point of time in the past and were still continuing at that point of time.

Last summer Josh had been renovating his house for two years.

(He started three years ago and last summer he was still renovating his house.)

Past perfect vs past simple

1. The past simple is used for actions that happened some time ago. The past perfect is used for actions that happened before a point of time in the past.

Jim returned at 4 o'clock. He had called Jane on the way back home and now she appeared at the door.

In this story the sentences are in a reversed order, because in reality, first Jim called Jane and then he returned. If we want to keep this sentence order, we must use the past perfect to make it clear that Jim called Jane first.

2. If the sentence order is the same as the order of the events, we can use the past tense.

Jim called Jane on the way back home. He returned at 4 o'clock and now she appeared at the door.

This difference is important. In some situations these two tenses have a completely different meaning.

I arrived at the garage. They told me to pay in cash. But I only had my credit card. I couldn't pay.

I arrived at the garage. They had told me to pay in cash. I paid and left immediately.

In the first case I did not know that I had to pay in cash. They told me after my arrival.

In the second case I was informed before my arrival and had no problems.

Past perfect simple vs continuous

For an action that can continue for a long time we can use both the simple and continuous forms (work, run, study, travel, sleep ...). There is practically no difference in meaning, but the continuous form is more usual in English.

Stephen was pretty tired. He had worked all day.

Stephen was pretty tired. He had been working all day.

In other cases these two forms have a completely different meaning.

Before midnight Paul had translated the article. (He finished his work.)

Before midnight Paul had been translating the article. (He did not finish it. He was still translating at that moment.)

If we refer to a number of individual actions or actions that were repeated, we must use the past perfect simple.

Before the lesson ended they had written three tests. (three individual completed activities)

But:

It was exhausting. They had been writing tests since the lessons started. (one uninterrupted incomplete activity)

See also the past tense and present perfect rules to study the continuous aspect of the tenses.

1.2 Present Tense

1.2.1 Present Simple Tense

Form

Positive statement: Subject + Verb(inf.) + Complement .

Negative statement: Subject + Do / Does + Not + Verb(inf.) + Complement .

Question: Do / Does + Subject + Verb(inf.) + Complement ?

Negative question: Do / Does + Subject + Not + Verb(inf.) + Complement ?

Examples:

Positive statement: I play, He plays

Negative statement: I do not play (I don't play), He does not play (He doesn't play)

Question form: Do you play? Does he play?

Negative question: Do you not play? (Don't you play?) Does he not play? (Doesn't he play?)

The passive voice: The game is played. The letters are written. (See more at Active and passive voice.)

Spelling

We only use -s ending (plays) in the third person singular.

We add -es to the verbs that end in ss, sh, ch, x and o: misses, finishes, watches, mixes, goes.

If the verb ends in a consonant and -y, we change -y into -i and use the -es ending: carry - carries, try - tries.

But:

play - plays, because this verb ends with a vowel and -y.

The auxiliary verb do is not used to make questions and negative statements with modal verbs and the verb to be.

Are you a student? Is he in London? I am not at home. He is not happy. Can you sing? Must I come? I cannot swim. He mustn't stay.

If the wh- pronoun introducing the question (who, which) is the subject of the question, we do not use the auxiliary verb do. Compare the following sentences.

Who knows you? (who is the subject)

Which cars belong to you? (which cars is the subject)

But:

Who do you know? (who is the object)

The negative question normally expresses a surprise.

Doesn't he work?

Use

1. We use the present simple tense for activities that happen again and again (everyday, sometimes, ever, never).

I sometimes go to school by bike. You don't speak Greek. Do they get up early?

He often travels. She doesn't work. Does she ever help you?

2. We use it for facts that are always true.

Our planet moves round the sun.

Lions eat meat.

3. With a future time expression (tomorrow, next week) the present simple is used for planned future actions (timetables).

The train leaves at 8.15.

They return tonight.

1.2.2 Present Continuous Tense

Form

Positive statement: Subject + am / is / are + Verb(ing) + Complement .

Negative statement: Subject + am / is / are + Not + Verb(ing) + Complement .

Question: am / is / are + Subject + Verb(ing) + Complement ?

Negative question: am / is / are + Subject + Not + Verb(ing) + Complement ?

Examples:

Positive statement: I am playing, You are playing, He is playing

Negative statement: I am not playing (I'm not playing), You are not playing (You aren't playing), He is not playing (He isn't playing)

Question: Are you playing? Is he playing?

Negative question: Are you not playing? (Aren't you playing?) Is he not playing? (Isn't he playing?)

The present continuous tense is formed with the verb to be and the present participle (-ing ending). The negative question normally expresses a surprise: Isn't he working?

Use

The present continuous tense is used:

1. If we want to say that something is happening at the time of speaking. We often use it with time expressions such as now or at the moment.

I am doing housework at the moment.

You aren't listening to me now!

Look at him! What is he doing?

2. For temporary activities that are true now, but maybe not happening at the time of speaking. Time expressions such as today, this week or these days are typical of this use.

I am in London. I am learning English here.

She can't go out today. She is preparing for an exam.

You can't meet him this week. He is working in Bath.

3. For planned future arrangements. The time of the action must be given in the sentence (soon, tomorrow, on Monday, next week), otherwise it is not clear that we talk about future.

I am coming soon.

We are leaving on Monday.

She is starting next week.

4. With always to express the idea that something happens too often and it annoys the speaker.

I am always forgetting my keys.

He is always smoking in the living room!

We do not normally use in the continuous the following groups of verbs (so called state verbs):

1. Of senses: feel, hear, see, smell, taste. On the other hand, look, watch or listen are action verbs and can be used in the continuous:

I can hear you. - I am listening to you.

Can you see the bird? - Are you looking at the bird?

2. Of liking and disliking: like, love, hate, fear, detest, want, wish...

I like animals.

I hate snakes.

3. Of mental states: agree, believe, forget, know, remember, suppose, think...

I agree with you.

I suppose you are right.

4. Of permanent states: be, have, belong, contain, owe, own, possess...

This pen belongs to me.

I have a new pet.

5. Of appearance: seem, appear, look, sound...

It seems that it will rain.

Your new haircut looks really good.

If some of these verbs are used in the present continuous, they have a different meaning. In such a case they become action verbs.

I think he is my best friend. (mental state) - I'm thinking of giving him a present. (mental activity)

He has a new bathroom. (possess) - He is having a bath. (take a bath)

I see what you mean. (know) - I am seeing a doctor. I am ill. (visit)

The flower smells beautiful. (scent) - The dog is smelling the sausage. (sniff)

This wine tastes sour. (It has a sour taste.) - She is tasting the soup if it is warm enough.

1.2.3 Present Perfect Simple Tense

Form

Positive statement: Subject + Has / Have + Verb(pp.) + Complement .

Negative statement: Subject + Has / Have + Not + Verb(pp.) + Complement .

Question: Has / Have + Subject + Verb(pp.) + Complement ?

Negative question: Has / Have + Subject + Not + Verb(pp.) + Complement ?

Examples:

Positive statement: I have cooked, I have written , He has cooked, He has written (I've cooked, He's cooked)

Negative statement: I have not worked (I haven't worked), He has not worked (He hasn't worked)

Question: Have you worked?

Neg. question: Have you not worked? (Haven't you worked?)

Use

The present perfect combines the past and present.

1. We use the present perfect simple for actions or states that started in the past and still continue.

We have lived here since 2001.

She has known me for more than two years.

I haven't seen her since Christmas.

How long have they been here?

It is often used with expressions indicating that the activity began in the past and comes up to now, such as: for 10 years, since 1995, all week, all the time, always, lately, recently ...

We have always worked in York. (We still work in York.)

It has been quite cold lately. (It is still cold.)

If the activity started in the past and ended in the past we cannot use the present perfect. I have smoked for 5 years. (present perfect - I still smoke.)

I smoked for 5 years. (past simple - I smoked from 2000 to 2005, then I stopped.)

2. We use it to describe an experience that happened in the past (the time is not given), but the effects are important now.

She has been to London. (And so she knows London.)

Compare:

I have already been to Greece. (experience - And I want to go somewhere else now.)

I have been in Greece for two weeks. (state - I am still in Greece.)

When we use this tense to express some experience, we can use following adverbs - ever, never, already, often, occasionally, yet, before

Have you ever tried it?

She has never read this book. We haven't seen it yet.

Have you fallen off a bike yet?

I haven't met her before.

3. The present perfect simple is used for past activities that have a present result.

The bus hasn't arrived. (It did not arrive on time and we are still waiting now.)

I have bought a new house. (I did it last month and it means that now I have a new address.)

For such activities we often use these adverbs - yet, already, just.

They haven't finished their homework yet. (They can't go out now.)

Has she signed it yet? (Can I take the document?)

I've already sent the letter. (There is no need to go to the post-office.)

We have just heard the news. (We know about it.)

1.2.4 Present Perfect Continuous Tense

Form

Positive statement: Subject + Has / Have + Been + Verb(ing) + Complement .

Negative statement: Subject + Has / Have + Not been + Verb(ing) + Complement .

Question: Has / Have + Subject + Been + Verb(ing) + Complement ?

Negative question: Has / Have + Subject + Not been + Verb(ing) + Complement ?

Examples:

Positive statement: I have been cooking, He has been cooking

Negative statement: I have not been cooking (I haven't been cooking), He has not been cooking

Question: Have you been cooking?

Neg. question: Have you not been cooking? (Haven't you been cooking?)

Use

- (a) We use the present perfect continuous for events that began in the past, are continuing now and will probably continue in the future.

I have been playing tennis since I was 6 years old.

She has been working here for 15 years.

- (b) We use it for actions that began in the past and have only just finished.

I've been skiing all day. I'm so tired.

Hello! We've been waiting for you since 5 o'clock.

Present perfect simple vs present perfect continuous

- (a) In some situations we can use both tenses and there is practically no difference in meaning. The continuous is more usual in the English language.

It has rained for a long time.

It has been raining for a long time.

Verbs which can be used in this way include - learn, live, sleep, rain, sit, work, wait , stay ...

- (b) Sometimes the simple form can describe a permanent state, while the continuous form a temporary activity.

I have lived here for ten years. It is my permanent address.

I have been living here for ten years. And now I am going to move.

Some verbs cannot express this difference, because they are not normally used in the continuous tenses (verbs of senses - feel, hear, see; verbs expressing emotions - like, love, admire, wish; verbs of mental state - know, remember, mean, recognize; verbs of possession - belong, own, owe; auxiliaries - can, must and be, have in some cases; others - appear, concern, seem, sound ...). They must be used in the simple form.

- (c) Verbs that express a single action (find, start, stop, lose, break ...) are not used in the continuous form.

They've started the fight.

I've lost my purse.

- (d) There is a difference between a single action in the present perfect simple and continuous.

I have painted the hall. (I have completed my work.)

I have been painting the hall. (That is how I have spent the day, but it does not mean that I have finished my job.)

- (e) A single action in the present perfect continuous comes up to the time of speaking. But it is different with the simple tense.

She's been cooking dinner. (She is still in the kitchen. She has just finished or she will continue cooking.)

She has cooked dinner. (We do not know when. Yesterday or very recently? The result is important.)

- (f) We can only use the present perfect continuous for uninterrupted actions.

I've been visiting New York for a couple of years.

She has been writing letters since she got up.

In these sentences we describe one uninterrupted incomplete activity.

If the action is repeated or interrupted

I have visited New York three times. She has written four letters since she got up.

Present perfect vs present simple

The present perfect is used for actions that began in the past and continue at present. It expresses how long the action has been.

The present simple is used for actions that are repeated at present. It expresses

how often the action happens.

She has worked here for a long time. But: She works here every day. How long have you worked here? But: How often do you work here?

Past perfect vs present perfect simple

1. The past perfect is often used with expressions indicating that the activity took some time, such as: for 10 years, since 1995, all week, all the time, always, ...

When the plane landed Tim had travelled all day.

My parents moved away from Leeds. They had lived there since they got married.

In 2005 Derek started to work in Berlin. He had always planned it.

These expressions are also used with the present perfect. The difference is, however, that the present perfect refers to events that started in the past and still continue, the past perfect expresses events that began before a point of time (or another action) in the past and continued to that point of time in the past. I have been in Paris for a week. (the present perfect - I came a week ago and I am still in Paris.) When I met Annie I had been in Paris for a week. (the past perfect - I came to Paris a week before I met Annie and I am not there anymore.)

2. If we use the past perfect simple it does not always mean that an activity continued up to a point of time in the past. The event can end a long time before the point of time in the past that we refer to. In 2001 Angie worked in Glasgow. In 1980's she had worked in Wales. (Angie left her job in Glasgow in 1989. In 2001 she worked in Glasgow. But we do not know what she did in the meantime.)

Past perfect continuous vs present perfect continuous

The past perfect and present perfect continuous are basically very similar. The difference is, however, that in the past perfect we refer to the point of time in the past, while in the present perfect we refer to the present times.

I have been practising since the morning. (present perfect - I am still practising.)

At 11 o'clock I had been practising for two hours. (past perfect - I began at 9 o'clock and at 11 o'clock I was still practising.)

Present perfect vs past simple

With the present perfect we do not specify when the action happened. If we give the time or it is clear from the context that we mention a certain time in the past, we must use the past simple.

Have you had breakfast? **But:** Did you have breakfast at the hotel?

I've read your letter. **But:** I read your letter last night.

They have told me. **But:** They told me when we met.

Have you had the operation? **But:** When did you have the operation?

In the present perfect we express that something happened in the past which is important now. The time is not relevant.

In the past tense the time of the action is relevant.

1.3 Future Tenses

1.3.1 Future Simple Tense - will

Form

Positive statement: Subject + Will + Verb(inf.) + Complement .

Negative statement: Subject + Will + Not + Verb(inf.) + Complement .

Question: Will + Subject + Verb(inf.) + Complement ?

Negative question: Will + Subject + Not + Verb(inf.) + Complement ?

Examples:

Positive statement: I will learn (I'll learn), He will learn (He'll learn)

Negative statement: I will not learn (I won't learn), He will not learn (He won't learn)

Question: Will you learn?

Neg. question: Will you not learn? (Won't you learn?)

We can also use shall in the first person singular and plural (I, we). But this form is quite formal in modern English and is not very common.

I shall do it for you.

We shall come soon.

Use

1. Will is used as a modal auxiliary verb to show a general intention.

He will change his job.

We'll travel abroad. (short form of will)

I will not need it.

They won't change the telephone number. (short form of will not)

Will you take the exam?

2. Will is used for predictions or opinions.

It will snow in winter.

The horse will not win.

We can use following verbs or adverbs to express that we assume something, but we are not sure: think, be sure, hope, believe, suppose, perhaps, possibly, probably, surely.

They'll probably study art.

I don't think she'll accept it.

3. Will is used to express a decision or offer made at the moment of speaking.

Can I walk you home? - No, thank you. I'll take a taxi.

Please, tell Peter about it. - O.K. I'll call him.

But:

I am going to call Peter. Do you want me to say hello to him?

(Going to expresses our decision made before the moment of speaking.)

1.3.2 Future Continuous Tense

Form

Positive statement: Subject + Will + Be Verb(ing) + Complement .

Negative statement: Subject + Will + Not be + Verb(ing) + Complement .

Question: Will + Subject + Be Verb(ing) + Complement ?

Negative question: Will + Subject + Not be + Verb(ing) + Complement ?

Examples:

Positive statement: I will be sitting (I'll be sitting)

Negative statement: I will not be sitting (I won't be sitting)

Question: Will you be sitting?

Neg. question: Will you not be sitting? (Won't you be sitting?)

Use

1. This tense is used for an action that will be in progress at a point of time in the future. It will start before that point of time and will continue after it. The point in time can be given by a time expression or by another action in the future simple (will). This usage is very similar to the past continuous in this aspect.

At 8 o'clock I will be travelling to Dorset.

This time tomorrow we'll be lying on the beach.

(In these two sentences the point of time that we refer to is given by a time expression.)

The shop will be closed. Will you be working?

I'll be sleeping when you come back.

(In these two sentences the point of time that we refer to is given by another activity.)

2. The future continuous describes the idea that something will happen in the normal course of events. It refers to a routine activity, not an intention, decision or plan.

I'll be writing to you again. (I always write to you, so I'll do it again, as usual.)

They'll be leaving on Friday. You can join them. (They normally leave on Fridays.)

Everybody will be working on a computer sooner or later. (If nothing special happens.)

Notes

In some cases we can use several forms for future events. But every form will have a slightly different meaning.

I'll be meeting Jim next week.

(I meet Jim every week and it will be the same next week.) I'll meet Jim next week.

(I intend to meet Jim next week or I suppose that I will meet him.)

I'm going to meet Jim next week.

(I decided to meet Jim some time ago and now I am expressing my intention.)

I'm meeting Jim next week.

(We have arranged the time and place because we have some reason to meet.)

It will rain, I'm afraid.

(I assume it will rain, it is my opinion. But who knows!)

It's going to rain.

(I am sure it will rain because I can see the dark clouds in the sky. My opinion is based on clear evidence.)

The present tense (I am meeting) is more definite than be going to (I am going to meet) and will is the least definite (I will meet).

1.3.3 Future Perfect Simple Tense

Form

Positive statement: Subject + Will Have Verb(pp.) + Complement .

Negative statement: Subject + Will + Not have + Verb(pp.) + Complement .

Question: Will + Subject + Have Verb(pp.) + Complement ?

Negative question: Will + Subject + Not have + Verb(pp.) + Complement ?

Examples:

Positive statement: I will have painted, I will have written, He will have painted, He will have written (I'll have painted, He'll have painted)

Negative statement: I will not have painted (I won't have painted), He will not have painted (He won't have painted)

Question: Will you have painted?

Neg. question: Will you not have painted? (Won't you have painted?)

Use

We use the future perfect simple for events that will be completed before or at a certain time. It is often used with a time expression beginning with *by*: *by then*, *by that time*, *by midnight*, *by the end of the year*. The time can also be given by other time expressions (*on Sunday*, *before 31 June*) or other activities expressed in different future tenses.

I will have sent the project by Friday.

On 11 August this year we will have been married for five years.

When the mountaineers get back to the base, they'll have been in the snowstorm for two days.

We'll have reached the top before noon.

How long will she have worked here by the end of this year?

In all these examples, at a given time the future perfect actions will be in the past.

1.3.4 Future Perfect Continuous Tense**Form**

Positive statement: Subject + Will Have been Verb(ing) + Complement .

Negative statement: Subject + Will + Not have been + Verb(ing) + Complement .

Question: Will + Subject + Have been Verb(ing) + Complement ?

Negative question: Will + Subject + Not have been + Verb(ing) + Complement ?

Examples:

Positive statement: I will have been meeting (I'll have been meeting)

Negative statement: I will not have been meeting (I won't have been meeting)

Question: Will you have been meeting?

Neg. question: Will you not have been meeting? (Won't you have been meeting?)

Use

We use the future perfect continuous tense for activities that will continue until a point of time in the future and will not be completed. Like the simple tense it is normally used with *by* or other time expressions and future actions.

I'll go home on 20 June. By then I'll have been staying at this hotel for a fortnight.

At six o'clock we'll have been waiting here for three hours.

When you arrive, we'll have been sitting in the classroom all day.

Future simple vs continuous

Bill won't play football tomorrow.

(The fact is that Bill cannot play or does not want to play for some reason.)

Bill won't be playing football tomorrow.

(Bill will not play, because it will be Friday and he never plays on Fridays.)

I'll call Mimi tonight. I'll ask her.

(I will do it because I need to talk to her.) I'll be calling Mimi tonight. I can ask her.

(I call her every night, that is why I will call her tonight too.)

In these examples the future simple shows intentions, while in the continuous there is no intention, it expresses routine actions.

Future perfect simple vs continuous

It is used for incomplete, uninterrupted activities. If we refer to a number of individual actions or actions that were repeated, we must use the future perfect simple.

When I am sixty, I'll have been building houses for thirty years. (one incomplete activity)

When I am sixty, I'll have built more than fifty houses. (fifty individual actions)

By 5 o'clock I'll have been washing this car for an hour and a half. (one uninterrupted activity)

By 5 o'clock I'll have washed this car and replaced the tyres. (two completed activities that will be done one after another)

In this respect the simple and continuous aspects are similar to the other tenses (the past tense, present perfect, past perfect), which you can study on this website to get more details and more examples.

Future continuous vs present continuous

We are going to the cinema next weekend.

(The present tense means that we have already arranged it. We know the time and place and probably have the tickets.)

We'll be going to the cinema next weekend. (The future continuous only tells us how we will spend the weekend. But we have not arranged anything and, probably, we do not even know which film we want to see.)

I am seeing Susan tomorrow.

(I have some reason. Susan and I have arranged the time and place.)

I'll be seeing Susan tomorrow.

(Susan is my classmate and because I will go to school tomorrow, I will see her as usual.)