



Learn English Through Stories

T Series

Upper - Intermediate

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Future Tenses 2 by K S Sandhu

A Tropical Dream Come True

In a warm, busy café in the city centre, four friends — Emma, Jack, Sophia and Liam — sat around a table covered with colourful maps and travel brochures. This was the long-anticipated moment they had waited for all year. Their two-week holiday to a sunny Caribbean island was finally only seven days away.

Emma smiled at her friends. “By this time next week, we will be flying high above the ocean. The pilot will announce that we will be landing soon, and everyone will cheer!”

Jack checked the flight details on his phone. “That’s right. We will be arriving at the airport at six o’clock local time. A taxi will take us straight to the hotel, and by sunset we will be lying on the serene white-sand beach with the warm waves touching our toes.”

Sophia’s eyes lit up. “I can already picture it! Every morning we will be exploring the bustling markets in the town. The air will smell of fresh mango and spices, and the vibrant colours of the handmade jewellery and clothes will be everywhere.”

Liam, who loved adventure, laughed. “And every afternoon at three o’clock we will be snorkelling in the clear turquoise water or kayaking along the coast. Those exhilarating experiences with colourful fish and gentle turtles will be the highlight of every day!”

Sophia looked a little worried. “But what if it rains one afternoon? What will we be doing then?”

“Don’t worry,” Emma replied quickly. “If it rains, we will be relaxing in the hotel lounge, playing board games and sharing funny stories. Nothing will stop our fun!”

Jack continued the dream. “In the evenings we will be immersing ourselves in the island culture. We will be attending a beach party where we will be dancing to the local music. Maybe we will even make some spontaneous decisions, like joining a night-time boat trip to watch the stars.”

Liam added excitedly, “There are some intriguing local legends about old pirate treasure hidden in the green hills. While we walk the jungle paths, we will be keeping our eyes open for clues to those captivating stories.”

Sophia relaxed and smiled. "I love the quiet moments too. After dinner we will be sitting on our balcony, reminiscing about the day. We will be watching the ephemeral beauty of the sunset as it paints the sky in soft oranges and pinks."

Emma raised her coffee cup. "This holiday is going to be the quintessential tropical getaway we all need. By this time next month, we will be back home, but we will still be talking about these memories for years."0

The four friends laughed, hugged, and clinked their cups together. With tickets already booked and hearts full of hope, they left the café feeling ready. Their future plans were no longer just dreams — they were about to become the best two weeks of their lives.

Questions:

Question 1: Where are the four friends sitting at the beginning of the story?

Question 2: How long is their holiday to the Caribbean island?

Question 3: What time will they be arriving at the airport according to Jack?

Question 4: What will the friends be doing every morning on the island?

Question 5: What activity does Liam say will be the highlight of every day?

Question 6: What will the friends be doing if it rains one afternoon?

Question 7: What will they be doing in the evenings according to Jack?

Question 8: What are the two really harder words used in the story?

Question 9: What will Sophia and her friends be watching from their balcony after dinner?

Question 10: What does Emma call this holiday at the end of the story?

Answers:

Answer 1: They are sitting in a warm, busy café in the city centre.

Answer 2: Their holiday is two weeks long.

Answer 3: They will be arriving at the airport at six o'clock local time.

Answer 4: Every morning they will be exploring the bustling markets in the town.

Answer 5: Snorkelling in the clear turquoise water or kayaking along the coast.

Answer 6: If it rains, they will be relaxing in the hotel lounge, playing board games and sharing funny stories.

Answer 7: In the evenings they will be immersing themselves in the island culture and dancing to the local music at a beach party.

Answer 8: The two really harder words are "ephemeral" and "quintessential".

Answer 9: They will be watching the ephemeral beauty of the sunset.

Answer 10: Emma calls it the quintessential tropical getaway.

42 Future continuous



1 Form

We form the future continuous with **will + be + the -ing form of the verb**:

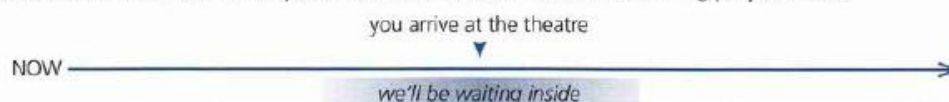
POSITIVE	<i>I will ('ll) be working. He will ('ll) be waiting. They will ('ll) be watching TV.</i>
NEGATIVE	<i>I will not (won't) be coming to the party. It will not (won't) be working. We will not (won't) be leaving then.</i>
QUESTIONS	<i>Will you be waiting for me? (No, I won't.) Will she be arriving tomorrow? (Yes, she will.) What will you be doing?</i>

Spelling rules for **-ing forms** ➤ page 350

2 Actions happening at a future time

We use the future continuous to talk about an action that will be in progress at or around a time in the future:

Come to the main door when you arrive at the theatre – we'll be waiting for you inside.



Don't phone me at the office tomorrow. I'll be working at home.

- ⚠ We don't use *going to* with this meaning:
~~X~~ *By this time next month I'm going to live in my new flat!*
 ✓ *By this time next month I'll be living in my new flat!*

3 Future actions with possible results

We can use the future continuous to talk about a future action

- which may have a result:
I'll be meeting my friends after work so I may be home late.
- or which may make another action possible or necessary:
I'll be seeing the doctor tomorrow. Do you want me to ask her about your prescription?
We'll be turning off the water supply for two hours at six o'clock. Please do not turn on your taps during this time.

4 Asking about plans

We use the future continuous to ask polite questions about personal plans and arrangements. It is less direct than the present continuous or *going to*:

Excuse me. Will we be stopping for a break during the journey?

Compare:

Are you coming to the party? (present continuous: a direct question, to a friend)

Will you be coming to the party? (future continuous: a less direct question, to your boss)

FORMALITY CHECK We can also use the future continuous to say that we can't do something in a formal situation. Compare:

Mr Jenkins is busy so I'm afraid he won't be meeting us. (future continuous: formal situation)

Sally's working so she isn't coming to the party tonight. (present continuous: informal)

Practice

- 1** **GRAMMAR IN USE** Complete the captain's announcement with the future continuous form of the verbs in brackets. **▶▶ 3.19** Listen and check.

“Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. This is your captain speaking. Welcome on board today's flight to Las Palmas. Our flight time today will be around five hours and we (0) *will be flying*..... (fly) at an altitude of 35,000 feet. Weather conditions are good and we (1)

(arrive) at Las Palmas at six o'clock local time.

During today's flight we (2) (show) a selection of films. You can find details in the in-flight magazine in the pocket of the seat in front of you. Our cabin crew (3) (pass) through the aircraft with refreshments shortly after take-off. I apologise for the fact that we (4)

(not / serve) a hot meal on today's flight. This is due to a strike at the catering company. However, we (5) (offer) you sandwiches and the usual choice of drinks.

In a few moments the cabin crew (6) (demonstrate) the safety equipment. Please give them your full attention, then sit back, relax and enjoy the flight. Thank you.”



- 2** Choose the best ending for each sentence, A or B. **▶▶ 3.20** Listen and check.

0 I'm afraid the head of finance won't be able to meet you tomorrow as

A he'll attend a conference. B he'll be attending a conference.

1 By this time next week

A we're going to lie on the beach. B we'll be lying on the beach.

2 The au pair will be taking the children to school

A if you're too busy. B tomorrow morning.

3 Don't disturb me tomorrow evening because

A I'll watch the match on TV. B I'll be watching the match on TV.

4 I'll be giving you a lift home

A so you don't need to bring your car. B if you like.

5 You can deliver the dishwasher anytime tomorrow because

A I'll be working from home. B I'll work from home.

- 3** Rewrite these statements and questions so they are more polite.

0 Are you going to give us extra points for correct spelling?

Will you be giving us extra points for correct spelling?

1 Do we get a pay rise next year?

.....

2 I'm afraid we aren't sending you the documents until next week.

.....

3 Are you going to stay the night?

.....

4 Will you recommend me for a promotion when you see the boss?

.....

5 Unfortunately, we aren't opening the day-care centre next summer.

.....

6 Are you going to bring some food for the picnic?

.....

Answers

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1 1 will be arriving 2 will be showing 3 will be passing 4 will not be serving 5 will be offering 6 will be demonstrating

2 1 B 2 B 3 B 4 A 5 A

- 3** 1 Will we be getting a pay rise next year?
2 I'm afraid we won't be sending you the documents until next week.
3 Will you be staying the night?
4 Will you be recommending me for a promotion when you see the boss?
5 Unfortunately, we won't be opening the day-care centre next summer.
6 Will you be bringing some food for the picnic?