



Learn English Through Stories

T Series

Upper - Intermediate

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Future Tenses 3 by K S Sandhu

The Long Wait for Peace

Alex looked at his wife, Maria, who was resting on the sofa with her hands on her growing belly. Their apartment building was undergoing major renovation. For weeks, workers had been fixing the old roof, but the work seemed interminable. The young couple lived on the top floor, and every day brought noise, dust, and cold draughts through the cracks.

"By the end of this week," Alex said with a sigh, "the men will have been working on the roof for over two months. We will have suffered constant commotion and dirt for eight long weeks." Maria smiled weakly. "I know. The baby is due next month, and it looks as though the repairs will not have been completed by then. This situation is becoming intolerable."

Alex nodded. He had written a polite but firm letter to Mr Khan, the company manager, earlier that day. In it, he explained their worries and asked for reassurance that the work above their flat would have finished by early June at the latest. He hoped Mr Khan would understand their exasperation.

Later that evening, their friend Sofia came to visit. She was always meticulous about planning and loved giving advice.

"Shall we go out for dinner this weekend?" Sofia asked cheerfully.

"Only after seven," Alex replied. "I won't have finished preparing the baby's room until then. I'm painting the walls, but the new plaster won't have dried properly before Wednesday."

Maria joined the conversation. "Carol from downstairs has lost so much weight! By next week she will have been going to her fitness classes for over six weeks. If she continues, she will have lost five kilos by the end of the month. I wish I had her energy!"

Sofia laughed. "You're doing great, Maria. You're resilient and strong. By the time the baby arrives, the worst of the noise will have ended. Your mother-in-law is coming to help, isn't she? Don't worry – by the time she gets here, the cacophony from the roof will have stopped!"

Alex poured tea for everyone. "When I retire in thirty years," he joked, "I will have been living in noisy apartments for most of my life if we don't find a better place soon!"

The friends talked about the future. Maria said, "After September, when the baby is bigger, we will have more free time because the repairs will have been completed. I can already anticipate peaceful mornings with no hammers banging above us."

Sofia added seriously, "The company must mitigate these problems. Persistent delays are unfair to expectant families."

Two really difficult words appeared naturally in their chat: perseverance (the quality of continuing despite difficulties) and inevitable (certain to happen).

"We need perseverance to stay calm," Alex said, "but some noise is inevitable during big repairs."

By bedtime, Maria felt more hopeful. "By this time next month," she whispered, "the work will have finished, the baby will have been born, and our little family will have started our new chapter in a quiet, warm home."

Alex kissed her forehead. "Yes, and we will have survived all this disruption together."

Questions:

question1: Who is pregnant in the story?

question2: How long will the workers have been repairing the roof by the end of this week?

question3: Why is Alex worried about the repairs?

question4: What does Alex want Mr Khan to do?

question5: When does Alex say he will finish preparing the baby's room?

question6: What will Carol have done by the end of the month?

question7: Who visits Alex and Maria in the evening?

question8: What two really difficult words are used in the story?

question9: By this time next month, what two things does Maria hope will have happened?

question10: What is the main problem in the story?

Answers:

answer1: Maria is pregnant.

answer2: The workers will have been working on the roof for over two months.

answer3: Because the work is noisy, dirty, and creates cold draughts, and the baby is coming soon.

answer4: He wants Mr Khan to reassure them that the work on their part of the roof will have finished by the beginning of June.

answer5: After seven o'clock.

answer6: She will have lost over five kilos.

answer7: Their friend Sofia visits them.

answer8: Perseverance and inevitable.

answer9: The roof repairs will have finished and the baby will have been born.

answer10: The long and noisy renovation of the apartment building roof while Maria is pregnant.

43 Future perfect: simple and continuous



1 Future perfect simple

We form the future perfect simple with *will + have + past participle*:

POSITIVE	<i>I will ('ll) have worked. He will ('ll) have worked. They will ('ll) have arrived.</i>
NEGATIVE	<i>I will not (won't) have worked. It will not (won't) have finished. We will not (won't) have stopped.</i>
QUESTIONS	<i>Will you have worked? (No, I won't.) Will she have finished? (Yes, she will.) What will you have done?</i>

2 Future perfect continuous

We form the future perfect continuous with *will + have + been + the -ing form of the verb*:

POSITIVE	<i>I'll have been working. He'll have been waiting. They'll have been watching TV.</i>
NEGATIVE	<i>I will not (won't) have been waiting. It will not (won't) have been working. We will not (won't) have been skiing.</i>
QUESTIONS	<i>Will you have been swimming? (No, I won't.) Will she have been waiting? (Yes, she will.) What will you have been doing?</i>

3 Completed actions

We use the future perfect simple for actions which we expect to be completed by a particular time in the future:

We'll have got back and had a shower by seven.
(= We will get back before seven o'clock.)

We usually use time expressions with the future perfect:

He'll have arrived by this evening.

Do you think your guests will have left before we get there?



4 Actions in progress

We use the future perfect continuous to talk about an action which is happening up to a particular time in the future. The action may stop at that time or it may continue after it.
By next Friday I'll have been waiting for my exam results for over two months!

We can use this form, usually with *so*, to explain the reason for a future situation:

We'll have been skiing all day so we'll be ready for a meal!

They'll have been working since eight o'clock so they'll be tired.

Compare the future perfect simple and continuous:

By ten o'clock I'll have finished my homework. (emphasis on a completed action)

By nine o'clock I'll have been working on my essay for four hours. (emphasis on 'how long')

Practice


1 Read the conversations and choose the correct word in *italics*.

- 1 A Shall we go out this evening?
B OK, but only after seven. I (0) *won't have* / *won't finished* my homework until then.
A That's OK. I'm working on my *project* this evening but I'll (1) *done* / *have done* most of it by seven-thirty, so I can phone you then.
- 2 A Carol's lost a lot of weight!
B Yes, she's been on a very good diet. By next week she'll have been (2) *go* / *going* to a weight loss class for over six weeks! If she carries on like this she'll (3) *have* / *has* lost over five kilos by the end of the month.
- 3 A Will you (4) *have* / *been finished* plastering this room by the weekend?
B Yes, I hope so.
A Great. So will we be able to paint the room on Monday?
B No. Wait until Wednesday. The new plaster (5) *didn't dry* / *won't have dried* until then.
- 4 A Excuse me, nurse. I've been waiting here for ages.
B I'm sorry. The doctor's very busy. She'll probably be able to see you after four.
A And by then I'll (6) *be* / *have been* waiting here for more than six hours!

2 Complete the sentences with the verb in brackets. Use the future perfect or, where possible, the future perfect continuous form. 3.21 Listen and check.

- 0 By the end of next month I *'ll have been living* here in Spain for six years. (live)
- 1 I'll ask Jane to call you back at twelve. Her meeting by then. (end)
- 2 When he retires next year, Adam here for more than twenty years. (work)
- 3 I'll have more free time after September because the children to school by then. (go back)
- 4 My best friend is doing a 'round-the-world' trip. By this time next week she for more than six months. (travel)
- 5 Don't worry. By the time you get here, my mother-in-law! (leave)
- 6 the project in time for the meeting? (the team, complete)
- 7 It's a really long flight. We in the same seats for over fourteen hours so we'll be exhausted when we get there. (sit)
- 8 You can't stay here next week. We the decorating. (not finish)

3 **GRAMMAR IN USE** Find five more mistakes in the letter and correct them.

 3.22 Listen and check.

Dear Mr Sanderson,

I am writing about the repairs which your company has been ~~made~~ ^{making} to the roof of our apartment building. The work started in March and it still isn't finished. By the end of this week the men will have working on the roof for over two months. This means we will suffered more than eight weeks of continuous noise and disruption, and we will be living for all that time with permanent cold draughts and dirt.

As you know, my wife is pregnant and the baby is due next month. It looks as though the work will haven't been completed by the time the baby is born. This is unacceptable.

I would like you to reassure us that work on the part of the roof that covers our flat will have finishing by the beginning of June at the latest. I think this is the least we can expect.

Yours sincerely,
Jeremy Brogan

Answers

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1 1 have done 2 going 3 have 4 have 5 won't have dried 6 have been

2 1 will have ended 2 will have been working 3 will have gone back 4 will have been travelling 5 will have left 6 Will the team have completed 7 will have been sitting 8 won't have finished

3 I am writing about the repairs which your company has been ~~made~~ *making* to the roof of our apartment building. The work started in March and it still isn't finished. By the end of this week the men will have **been** working on the roof for over two months. This means we will **have** suffered more than eight weeks of continuous noise and disruption, and we will ~~be~~ **have been** living for all that time with permanent cold draughts and dirt.

As you know, my wife is pregnant and the baby is due next month. It looks as though the work ~~will haven't~~ **will not have/won't have** been completed by the time the baby is born. This is unacceptable.

I would like you to reassure us that work on the part of the roof that covers our flat will have ~~finishing~~ **finished** by the beginning of June at the latest. I think this is the least we can expect.