

## The Future Tense

### Definition:

The future tense is used to talk about actions that have not yet occurred but are planned or expected to happen later. Like the past and present tenses, the future tense also has four forms:

1. Simple Future Tense
2. Future Continuous Tense
3. Future Perfect Tense
4. Future Perfect Continuous Tense

### 1. Simple Future Tense

Describes an action or state that will happen in the future.

#### Structure:

Sentence Type	Structure	Example
Affirmative	I/We shall + base verb Others will + base verb	I shall invite her.
Negative	I/We shall not + base verb Others will not + base verb	I shall not visit.
Interrogative	Shall/Will + subject + base verb?	Will she visit?
Negative Interrogative	Shall/Will + subject + not + base verb?	Shall I not visit?

#### Usage:

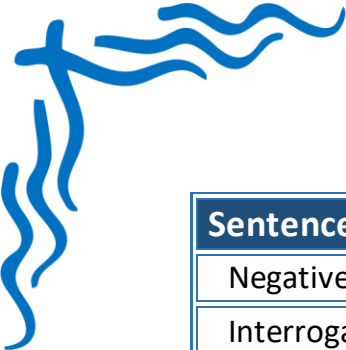
- To express future plans or decided actions.  
E.g., The school's function will take place on Tuesday.

### 2. Future Continuous Tense

Describes an action that will be in progress at a certain time in the future.

#### Structure:

Sentence Type	Structure	Example
Affirmative	Shall/Will + be + verb-ing	I shall be leaving tomorrow.



Sentence Type	Structure	Example
Negative	Shall/Will + not + be + verb-ing	I shall not be coming.
Interrogative	Shall/Will + subject + be + verb-ing?	Will she be coming?
Negative Interrogative	Shall/Will + subject + not + be + verb-ing?	Shall I not be coming?

#### Usage:

- To talk about ongoing future actions.  
E.g., He will be hosting the party at this time tomorrow.
- To politely inquire about future plans.  
E.g., Will you be joining us?

### 3. Future Perfect Tense

Describes an action that will be completed before a certain point in the future.

#### Structure:

Sentence Type	Structure	Example
Affirmative	Shall/Will + have + past participle	I shall have returned.
Negative	Shall/Will + not + have + past participle	I shall not have returned.
Interrogative	Shall/Will + subject + have + past participle?	Will he have returned?
Negative Interrogative	Shall/Will + subject + not + have + past participle?	Shall I not have returned?

#### Usage:

- To show that an action will be completed by a certain time in the future.  
E.g., By 8 PM, I shall have reached home.

### 4. Future Perfect Continuous Tense

Refers to actions that will be in progress over a period of time and will end at or before a certain point in the future.



### Structure:

Sentence Type	Structure	Example
Affirmative	Shall/Will + have been + verb-ing	I shall have been waiting.
Negative	Shall/Will + not + have been + verb-ing	I shall not have been waiting.
Interrogative	Shall/Will + subject + have been + verb-ing?	Will he have been waiting?
Negative Interrogative	Shall/Will + subject + not + have been + verb-ing?	Shall I not have been waiting?

### Usage:

- To describe a continuous action in the future that ends at a particular time.  
E.g., By March, he will have been teaching here for five years.

### Points to Remember

- Use shall with I/we (though “will” is now common with all subjects).
- Use will with you, he, she, it, they.
- All four future tenses have affirmative, negative, interrogative, and negative interrogative forms.
- Tenses indicate not only time but also type of action (simple, ongoing, completed, or prolonged).