

EXPLANATION

Future perfect

Form

The future perfect is composed of two elements

the simple future of the verb "to have" (will have) + the past participle of the main verb

Subject	+ will have	+ past participle of the main verb
He	will have	finished.
I	will have	finished.

To arrive, future perfect tense

Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative	Negative interrogative
I will have arrived	I won't have arrived	Will I have arrived?	Won't I have arrived?
You will have arrived	You won't have arrived	Will you have arrived?	Won't you have arrived?
He will have arrived	He won't have arrived	Will he have arrived?	Won't he have arrived?
We will have arrived	We won't have arrived	Will we have arrived?	Won't we have arrived?
They will have arrived	They won't have arrived	Will they have arrived?	Won't they have arrived?

Function

The future perfect tense refers to a completed action in the future. When we use this tense we are projecting ourselves forward into the future and looking back at an action that will be completed some time later than now. It is most often used with a time expression.

Examples

I will have been here for six months on June 23rd.

By the time you read this **I will have left**.

You will have finished your report by this time next week.

Won't they have arrived by 5:00?

Will you have eaten when I pick you up?

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More about Future Perfect

The **future perfect** is a verb tense used for actions that will be completed before some other point in the future.

The parade **will have ended** by the time Chester gets out of bed. At eight o'clock I **will have left**.

Key words: **Verb, past participle, tense, preposition**

The future perfect tense is for talking about an action that will be completed between now and some point in the future. Imagine that your friend Linda asks you to take care of her cat for a few days while she goes on a trip. She wants you to come over today at noon so she can show you where to find the cat food and how to mash it up in the bowl just right so that Fluffy will deign to eat it. But you're busy this afternoon, so you ask Linda if you can come at eight o'clock tonight instead.

The Future Perfect Formula

The formula for the future perfect tense is pretty simple: **will have + [past participle]**. It doesn't matter if the subject of your sentence is singular or plural. The formula doesn't change.

When to Use the Future Perfect Tense

Sometimes, you can use the future perfect tense and the simple future tense interchangeably. In these two sentences, there is no real difference in meaning because the word *before* makes the sequence of events clear:

Linda will leave before you get there. Linda will have left before you get there.

But without prepositions such as *before* or *by the time* that make the sequence of events clear, you need to use the future perfect to show what happened first.

At eight o'clock Linda will leave. **(This means that Linda will wait until 8 o'clock to leave.)** At eight o'clock Linda will have left. **(This means Linda will leave before 8 o'clock.)**

When Not to Use the Future Perfect Tense

The future perfect tense is only for actions that will be complete before a specified point in the future. In other words, the action you're talking about must have a deadline. If you don't mention a deadline, use the simple future tense instead of the future perfect tense.

Linda will leave.

Linda will have left.

The deadline can be very specific (eight o'clock) or it can be vague (next week). It can even depend on when something else happens (after the parade ends). It just has to be some time in the future.

How to make the Future Perfect Negative

Making a negative future perfect construction is easy! Just insert **not** between **will** and **have**.

We **will not have eaten** breakfast before we get to the airport tomorrow morning. They **will not have finished** decorating the float before the parade.

You can also use the contraction **won't** in the place of **will not**. They **won't have** finished decorating the float before the parade.

How to Ask a Question

The formula for asking a question in the future perfect tense is **will + [subject] + have + [past participle]**:

Will you **have eaten** lunch already when we arrive? **Will** they **have finished** decorating the float before the parade?

Prepositional Phrases that Often Go With the Future Perfect

By this time next week, Linda will have left for her trip.

Three days **from now**, we will have finished our project.

At midnight, the party will have ended.

Will you have eaten **already**?

Chester will not have arrived **by the time** the parade is over.

When I travel to France, I will have been to ten countries.

My sister will have cleaned the bathroom **before** the party.

As soon as someone buys this chair, I will have sold all the furniture I wanted to get rid of.

Common Regular Verbs in the Future Perfect Tense

Infinitive	Future Perfect	Negative	Question
to ask	will have asked	will not have asked	will you have asked...?
to work	will have worked	will not have worked	will he have worked...?
to call	will have called	will not have called	will I have called...?
to use	will have used	will not have used	will they have used...?

Common Irregular Verbs in the Future Perfect Tense

Infinitive	Future Perfect	Negative	Question
to be*	will have been	will not have been	will I have been...?
to have	will have had	will not have had	will you have had...?
to do	will have done	will not have done	will she have done...?
to say	will have said	will not have said	will we have said...?
to get	will have gotten**	will not have gotten	will they have gotten...?
to make	will have made	will not have made	will you have made...?
to go	will have gone	will not have gone	will he have gone...?
to take	will have taken	will not have taken	will you have taken...?
to see	will have seen	will not have seen	will I have seen...?
to come	will have come	will not have come	will it have come...?

*Be careful when using the verb "to be" in the future perfect tense. The construction is easy to confuse with the future perfect continuous tense.

**The past participle of "to get" is gotten in American English. In British English, the past participle is got.

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