Neil
Hello and welcome to 6 Minute Grammar with me, Neil.

Finn
And me, Finn.

Neil
Today’s programme is all about the future perfect continuous tense.

Finn
We’ll tell you when to use it…

Neil
How to form it…

Finn
And how it differs from the future perfect tense.

Neil
Let’s start with an example of the future perfect:

Rob
This time next year, I’ll have finished my course.

Neil
Here, the action - finishing the course - will be completed before a particular time in the future – this time next year.

Finn
OK. And now for the future perfect continuous:

Rob
In January, I’ll have been studying for three years.
Neil
Here, the action – studying - goes right up to the specified time and will probably continue afterwards.

Finn
So, we use the future perfect continuous rather than the future perfect when we want to focus on the continuous nature of the activity and how long it will be going on for.

Neil
We often use the future perfect continuous with *for* plus an amount of time. So, in the earlier example, we had *for three years*.

Finn
Let’s have some more examples of the future perfect continuous:

Rob
Tomorrow I’ll have been working here for six months.
In July we’ll have been living in Dubai for two years.
By the time the bus gets here, we’ll have been waiting over an hour.

Neil
Notice that the last example didn’t have *for*, as we don’t always have to include it.

Finn
Now, we usually use a time phrase with both tenses to state the particular time in the future. These often start with *by* or *in*. Listen to these examples:

Rob
By 2020 the city’s population will have doubled.
In June I’ll have been unemployed for five months.

Finn
You can use *by* or *in*… with any future day, date, month, season or special day.

Neil
For the future perfect continuous, the time phrases sometimes begin with *in* or *on*:

Rob
On Sunday, he’ll have been travelling for three weeks.

Finn
We often use *when* or *by the time* in time phrases with both tenses. Listen to these examples:
Rob
When your train gets in, we'll have been waiting for over two hours.
By the time you get home, the chicken will have been cooking for two hours.
By the time you get back, we'll have had dinner.

Finn
Notice that when and by the time are followed by a verb. This verb is in the present simple, not the future.

Neil
Now, as well as predicting future events and situations, we can also use the future perfect and future perfect continuous to say what we imagine might or might not have happened:

Rob
They won't have arrived yet. They only left twenty minutes ago.
Sam didn't come home last night. He'll have been working all night to finish his report.

Neil
In the first example, we assume that they haven’t arrived yet, based on the knowledge that they only left 20 minutes ago.

Finn
And in the second example, we imagine that Sam has been working all night because he didn’t come home last night.

Neil
We form the future perfect with subject plus will or won't plus have and the past participle of the main verb.

Rob
By the summer I'll have finished all my exams.
The film won't have started yet.

Finn
For the future perfect continuous, it’s subject plus will or won't plus have plus been plus the present participle.

Rob
They won't have been watching the match as they are on holiday.

Neil
For future perfect questions, it’s will or won’t plus subject plus have plus the past participle.
Rob
Will you have managed to read all the reports by this afternoon?

Neil
Asking questions in the future perfect continuous is more usually done with question tags, so the order is the same as for statements.

Rob
He won’t have been working all day, will he?

Finn
Question words can also be used in which case it’s will plus subject plus have plus been plus present participle.

Rob
What will they have been talking about?

IDENT
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Finn
We’re talking about the future perfect continuous tense.

Neil
To recap, we use the future perfect continuous to talk about something that will be going on at a particular time in the future…

Finn
Or to say what we assume has or hasn’t already happened.

Neil
Now it’s time for our quiz. Which is correct a or b. Are you ready?

Finn
Let’s go.

Neil
Number one. a) It’s only six o’clock. They won’t have arrived yet. b) It’s only six o’clock. They won’t have been arriving yet.

Finn
And this one is a).
Neil
Correct. Number two. a) On Tuesday I’ll have been worked here for two years. b) On Tuesday I’ll have been working here for two years.

Finn
And this one is b).

Neil
That’s right. Finally, number three. a) When you will visit, we’ll have been living here for six months. b) When you visit, we’ll have been living here for six months.

Finn
And this one is b) as well.

Neil
Correct. And it’s the end of the show. There’s lots more about this on our website at bbclearingenglish.com. Join us again for more 6 Minute Grammar soon.

Both
Bye.