
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

6 Minute Grammar

Future perfect



This is not a word-for-word transcript

Callum

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

Finn

And me, Finn.

Callum

Today's programme is all about the future perfect verb form.

Finn

Yes, by the end of this programme, **you will have learnt** how and when to use this form.

Callum

So there was our first example: **you will have learnt...**

Finn

You'll hear lots more examples in the programme...

Callum

And we'll have a quiz. Now, we usually use the future perfect to talk about an event that we predict or expect to happen or finish before a particular time in the future. Listen to this example from Feifei.

Feifei

By the time Christine arrives, **we'll have had** dinner.

Callum

So **we'll have had**, that's **we will have had** - in the future perfect tells us that we will finish dinner before Christine gets back. We might be having dinner right up to just before she returns, or we might finish it an hour before...

Finn

...but in any case, we will finish **before** she arrives.

Callum

We are using the future perfect to make a prediction about the future. Here are some more examples.

Feifei

This time next year, I **will have finished** my course.
Sales **will have increased** by 20 per cent by next January.
By 2020 the city's population **will have doubled**.

Finn

Now, we usually use a time phrase with the future perfect, often with **by** or **in**. Let's hear examples with **by** again:

Feifei

Sales will have increased by 20 per cent **by next January**.
By 2020 the city's population will have doubled.

Finn

And here are some more examples with a **by** time phrase.

Feifei

By the summer I'll have finished all my exams.
We'll have moved house **by Christmas**.

Callum

So we had **by next January, by 2020, by the summer and by Christmas**. We can also say **by the winter... by the end of the week...**

Finn

...by next month or next year ...by this time next week...

Callum

In fact you can pretty well use **by...** with any future date, month, season or special day.

Finn

Very special day. Another time expression with **by** we can use with the future perfect is **by the time that...** plus a subject and verb. Listen to the example we had earlier, and check out the tense.

Feifei

By the time that Christine arrives, we'll have had dinner.

Callum

It's the present simple - **arrives**.

Callum

When we use **in** for a time phrase with the future perfect, we can use it with a day, a month, a date, a time period. Here are some examples.

Feifei

In **fifty years time**, sea levels will have risen by several centimetres.

In **June** I'll have been unemployed for five months.

In **2050**, I believe robots will have replaced sales assistants in shops.

Finn

As well as for future plans and predictions, we can also use the future perfect to talk about what we believe or imagine has or hasn't happened at the moment of speaking...

Callum

...or in other words, to make educated guesses in the present about the past. Here are some examples.

Feifei

There's no point in calling Judy. She'll **have left** by now.

Let's hurry! The film **won't have started** yet.

If he's on schedule, Tom **will have arrived in Bangkok** yesterday.

Callum

So we assume that Judy has already left...

Finn

And the film hasn't started...

Callum

And Tom has arrived in Bangkok.

Finn

Now, to form the future perfect we use **subject plus will or won't plus have** and the **past participle** of the main verb.

Feifei

By the summer I'll **have finished** all my exams.

The film **won't have started** yet.

Finn

Notice that we usually use short forms, so it's **I'll, he'll, they'll** and so on... and **will not** becomes **won't**.

Callum

For questions, it's **will or won't plus subject plus have plus the past participle**.

Feifei

Will you have finished reading all the reports by this afternoon?

IDENT

6 Minute Grammar from BBC Learning English.

Finn

We're talking about the future perfect verb form.

Callum

So, to recap, we use the future perfect to predict events that will have happened before a particular time in the future...

Finn

...and to make educated guesses about things happening around now and even in the past.

Callum

And we usually use short forms.

Finn

So, it's time for our quiz. Which is correct? Number one. a) By 2060, scientists will have found a cure for cancer. b) By 2060, scientists will found a cure for cancer.

Callum

It's a) By 2060, scientists will have found a cure for cancer.

Finn

I hope so, now number two. a) Jackie won't have woken up yet. It's too early. b) Jackie won't have wake up yet. It's too early.

Callum

It's a) Jackie won't have woken up yet. It's too early.

Finn

Finally, number three. a) Will have you done all your work by two pm? b) Will you have done all your work by two?

Callum

And the answer is b) Will you have done all your work by two?

Finn

That's correct and it's the end of the show. There's lots more about this on our website at bbclearningenglish.com. Join us again for more 6 Minute Grammar soon.

Both

Bye.