

Unit 10

Will be doing and will have done

a First study this example situation:

Tom is a football fan and there is a football match on television this evening. The match begins at 7.30 and ends at 9.15. Ann wants to come and see Tom evening and wants to know what time to come:

Ann: Is it all right if I come at about 8.30?

Tom: No, don't come then. I'll be watching the match on television.

Ann: Oh. Well, what about 9.30?

Tom: Yes, that'll be fine. The match will have finished by then.

b We use **will be doing** (*future continuous*) to say that we will be in the middle of doing something at a certain time in the future. The football match begins at 7.30 and ends at 9.15. So during this time, for example at 8.30, Tom

- You'll recognise her when you see her. She'll be wearing a yellow hat.
- This time next week I'll be on holiday. I'll probably be lying on a beautiful beach.

Compare **will be doing** with the other continuous forms:

Tom works every morning from 9 o'clock until midday. So:

- At 10 o'clock yesterday he was working. (*past continuous* - see Unit 12)
- It's 10 o'clock now. He is working. (*present continuous* - see Unit 1)
- At 10 o'clock tomorrow he will be working.

c You can also use **will be doing** in another way: to talk about things which are already planned or decided:

- I'll be going to the city centre later. Can I get you anything?

With this meaning **will be doing** is similar to **am doing** (see Unit 4a):

- I'm going to the city centre later.

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We often use **Will (you) be -ing?** to ask about people's plans, especially when we want something or want someone to do something:

- 'Will you be using your bicycle this evening?' 'No, you can take it.'
- 'Will you be passing the post office when you go out?' 'Yes, why?'

d We use **will have done** (*future perfect*) to say that something will already have happened before a certain time in the future. Tom's football match ends at 9.15. So after this time, for example at 9.30, the match **will have finished**. Here are some more examples:

- Next year is Ted and Amy's 25th wedding anniversary. They **will have been** married for 25 years. (Now they have been married for 24 years.)
- We're late. I expect the film **will already have started** by the time we get to the cinema.