

FUTURE CONTINUOUS

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The future continuous can be used:

to talk about an activity that will be in progress at a specific future time

- Don't phone me before 8 o'clock, we 'll be having dinner.
- You can visit us during the first week of July. I won't be working then.

to express that we have a good idea about what is happening now.

- Don't disturb dad now, he'll be having his afternoon sleep.
- It's Friday, she'll be playing golf. You'll need to wait to talk to her.

to express that we see something as new, different or temporary

- Today we're taking the bus but next week we'll be taking the train.
- He'll be staying with his grandparents for several months while his father is in recovery.

to talk about a future event that will happen in the normal course of things (already planned). This means the action is certain to happen without any effort or decision being made by the speaker.

- I'll give Mike his birthday present since I'll be seeing him at work tomorrow.
- I can give you a lift as I'll be going into town anyway .
- I won't be using the car for work tomorrow, so you can have it if you want.
- Flight attendants will be circulating around the cabin to offer you refreshments.

to politely enquire about a person's plans for the future.

Notice the difference in usage between going to and the future continuous.

GOING TO

- Are you going to come to dinner tonight?

Could be taken in a way meaning that I'm pushing you for a decision. Almost like I've got to have an answer.

FUTURE CONTINUOUS

- Will you be coming to dinner tonight?

This is used to politely enquire about a person's plans without any pressure.