

SHENZHEN TOASTMASTERS CLUB · #594537

You Will Be Loving It

Tao · Visionary Communication Level 1 · 1027th meeting · June 23, 2026

Dear fellow toastmasters and distinguished guests, good evening. Do you have any dirty tricks when you speak English? I have one. And I've been using it constantly. It's the "future continuous tense". Will be doing. Well, Grammarian again? Let me explain.

THE CONFESSION

My son is being tortured by English verb forms every week. Third person needs an "s". Past tense needs an "ed". Irregular verbs? Eat, ate, eaten. Go, went, gone. Chaos.

Then I discovered the future continuous. Will be + doing. Always the same, regardless of the subject. I, he, we, the dog. I thought, great, I've found the SOLUTION.

Unfortunately, you can't use it everywhere. It only works for the future, otherwise, you will be sounding strange. And I had done some research and found out that this tense does two things that no other tense does. And THESE are the real reasons why I love it. And I believe you will be loving it as well.

THE FIRST MAGIC: IT PAINTS A PICTURE

Close your eyes for a second. Listen to this: "Tomorrow, 2 pm, I'll be lying on a beach, drinking lemon water." (pause two seconds) Did you see it? The sunshine, the waves, the lemon water?

Now compare: "I will go to the beach tomorrow." Hmmm. This is just a plan or maybe your imagination. Dry. Boring. Unreal. But "I'll be lying on a beach"? You're IN the scene. You're already there. That's what the future continuous does. It doesn't tell you what WILL happen. It takes you into a moment that's already happening.

"Next month, I'll be driving through Xinjiang with Jason." "In one hour, I'll be scrolling through my phone on the couch, pretending I'm not sleepy." Every "will be doing" is like a photo you take of the future before it really happens.

And here's my favorite. It's 9 p.m., you're stuck in the office. "By 10 p.m., I'll be reading a 200 page document, and understanding none of it." It's miserable. But did you notice with the future continuous, it's suddenly funny. You're laughing at yourself, not feeling sorry for yourself.

Will be doing makes things visible, and funny.

THE SECOND MAGIC: IT SOFTENS YOUR VOICE

Listen to these two questions: "Will you come to the Tuesday meeting?" "Will you be coming to the meeting?" (look at the audience) Which one makes you less uncomfortable?

The second one, right? But why?

Here's what's happening. When you say "will you come," the word "will" carries intention. You're asking someone to decide, right now, yes or no. It's direct and with pressure. But "will you BE COMING" removes that intention. It becomes: I'm just curious about your plans. No pressure. No expectation.

It works for statements too. "I will help you tomorrow." That's a promise. A commitment. "I will be helping you tomorrow." That's already arranged. It's just going to happen. No big deal. Same words. Completely different energy.

WRAP-UP

So yes, I started using the future continuous as I was lazy. But what I found was something bigger. It helps me dream: it turns a dry plan into a vivid picture. And it helps me connect: it makes my voice softer, warmer, funnier.

I want to end with one sentence: "The next time you speak English... you will be using the future continuous." (pause)

Not "you will use." "You will BE using." One sounds like an order. The other sounds like it's already happening.

Thank you.