

“THE PRESIDENT WILL BE ATTENDING A MEETING.”

THE PRESIDENT’S SCHEDULE

LEVEL

High-Beginner to Advanced

LANGUAGE FOCUS

Grammar, speaking (primary focus); listening, writing (secondary focus)

GOALS

Students will orally use the future progressive tense to ask and answer questions regarding the United States President’s schedule on an upcoming visit to their country. Students will take notes during the questioning and use those notes to complete a newspaper story.

MATERIALS

- Teacher: whiteboard/chalkboard, markers or chalk, infographic in Appendix 1, President’s schedule in Appendix 2, newspaper story in Appendix 3, a timing device.
- Students: pencils or pens, notebooks or writing paper.

PREPARATION

1. Read through all the materials carefully.
2. This activity is an information gap activity where student B will ask questions to student A to fill in a newspaper story of the President’s schedule. For more information on using information gaps in the classroom see June’s Teacher’s Corner: (<http://americanenglish.state.gov/resources/teachers-corner-speaking-information-gap-activities>)
3. In this activity students will be in pairs. Student A will be the President’s Press Secretary. This student will have the President’s official schedule to deliver to newspaper reporters. Student B will be a newspaper reporter who needs information to complete the story. Print enough copies of the schedule in Appendix 2 and the newspaper story in Appendix 3 for each student.
4. Read through the President’s schedule and newspaper story carefully.
 - a. In the President’s schedule student A must fill in the missing information. This information has been left blank so students can fill in information specific to their country.
 - b. In the newspaper story students must use the verb in parentheses and write the correct verb tense. For example, “The President _____(attend)_____” can be completed as “The President will be attending”.

PROCEDURES

1. Place the Future Progressive Infographic in Appendix 1 on the board. Point to the green box on the infographic highlighting actions at specific times. Ask the students:
 - a. What will you be doing tomorrow from 18:00-19:00?

- i. In their answers stress the use of will + be+ verb(ing)
2. Ask the students a few more questions about their upcoming schedules using the future progressive tense.
3. After the students have practiced progressive tense have the students remain in their pairs or have them form new pairs.
4. In each pair give student A the President's schedule (Appendix 2) and give student B the newspaper story (Appendix 3).
5. Give student A several minutes to fill out the information in the schedule. Students can use information specific to their town or country to fill out the form.
6. While student A is filling out the schedule, have student B read the newspaper story and begin preparing questions they will ask student A.
7. Once the students are ready, have student B begin asking the questions needed to fill out the information in the newspaper story.
8. Monitor the students as they complete the information gap activity and provide help as needed in constructing questions using the future progressive tense.
9. Once students have completed the activity have them switch roles and fill out new schedules and new news reports. Encourage students to role the play by using formal introductions and act out the role of Press secretary and newspaper reporter.

FUTURE PROGRESSIVE

americanenglish.state.gov

also known as future continuous



Action in Progress at a Time in the Future

She **will be taking** an exam at 2 p.m. tomorrow, so don't call her then.

Interrupted Action in the Future

I **will be waiting** for you when you arrive tonight.

Atmosphere in the Future

When I arrive to class, the teacher **will be talking**, some students **will be taking notes**, and my best friend **will be trying to stay awake**.

will be + verb-ing

Remember: usually STATIVE VERBS are NOT used in the progressive (-ing) form.

Parallel Actions in the Future

She **will be watching TV**, and he **will be cooking dinner**.

* **While he is cooking dinner**, she **will be watching TV**.

Emphasis of Future Plans and Intentions

They'll **be coming to visit us next week**.

* With "while," use the present progressive in the "while" clause and future progressive in the other clause.

Appendix 2: President's Schedule

Official Schedule of the President's Trip

From: The Office of the President
 Subject: The President's Official Visit to _____

Monday

10:00

President and staff arrive in _____

14:00 – 15:30

Lunch with _____ in _____

16:00 – 18:00

Meeting with _____ to discuss _____

19:00 – 22:00

Official state dinner with members of _____ including a performance by _____

Tuesday

9:00 – 12:00

President travels to _____ to watch _____

15:00 – 17:30

President and _____ meet privately to discuss _____

19:00 – 21:30

President attends dinner with the national _____ team.

Wednesday

7:00 – 8:00

President and staff travel to _____

10:30 – 11:30

Speech by President to students at _____

13:00 – 15:00

President meets with _____ to discuss the future of _____

17:00

Departure for the United States

Appendix 3: Newspaper Story

President's Schedule to _____ Announced

Earlier today the Office of the President announced the details of the president's trip to _____ (place)_____. The president's three day trip will include stops in three cities and meetings with _____ (person)_____ and _____ (person)_____.

The President's schedule will be busy over the three days as he _____ (meet)_____ government officials, athletes, and students.

On Monday morning the President _____ (arrive)_____ in _____ (place)_____. From 14:00-15:30 the President _____ (eat)_____ at _____. Following lunch, the President _____ (meet)_____ with _____ to discuss _____ (subject)_____. In the evening the President _____ (attend)_____ an official state dinner where he will watch a performance by _____.

Tuesday is another busy day for the President. At 9:00, the President _____ (travel)_____ to watch _____. The rest of the President's morning is free but from 15:00-17:30 the President _____ (join)_____ our own _____ to discuss _____. Finally, in the evening from 19:00-21:30 the President will meet and _____ (have)_____ dinner with the national _____ team.

From 7:00 until 11:30 Wednesday, the President _____ (travel)_____ to _____ and _____ (speak)_____ to a group of students at _____. After this the President has one last official function. From 13:00-15:00 the President _____ (discuss)_____ the future of _____ in a meeting with _____. Finally, the President will depart for the United States at 17:00.

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Image: ©alexmilos/Shutterstock

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