

## Unit 4

**TENSE:** Future Perfect

**TIME:** Refers to completion of future action

**KEY PHRASE:** “Will have”

**STRUCTURE:**  
Compound Tense:  
“haber” conjugated  
in the future + past  
participle

# The Future Perfect

The future perfect tense refers to an action that *will have* taken place in the future at or by a specified time, e.g., “I *will have* finished this book by Friday” (or “I’ll *have* this book *finished* by Friday”).

The future perfect tense also can be used to express probability or conjecture, as in: “He has *probably* already left.”

### Formation of the Future Perfect

The future perfect is a compound tense, which means that an auxiliary verb is required before the main verb. The auxiliary verb **haber** is conjugated in the future tense and followed by the past participle of the main verb:

habré + past participle	habremos + past participle
habrás + past participle	habréis + past participle
habrá + past participle	habrán + past participle

### Uses of the Future Perfect

**1. Expresses what will have happened:** The future perfect expresses an action that *will have* taken place by a specified time in the future. In English one can say, “I *will*

*have written* this letter by three o'clock," or, more commonly, "I *will have* this letter *written* by three o'clock." Both versions will translate into:

***Habré escrito esta carta para las tres.***

*examples:*

**Habré pintado** la casa para el sábado.  
*I will have the house painted* by Saturday.

¿Cuándo **habrás hecho** esto?  
 When *will you have* this *done*?

**Él no lo habrá visto** para entonces.  
*He won't have seen* it by then.

**Habremos leído** el libro para el jueves.  
*We will have read* the book by Thursday.

**Habréis comido** para las siete.  
*You will have eaten* by seven o'clock.

**Habrán vendido** su coche para mañana.  
*They will have sold* their car by tomorrow.

**ejercicio** III-4-1

1. In two weeks, I will have lived here for four years. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
2. By next year McDonald's will have sold another billion (*billón*) hamburgers. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
3. She won't have prepared dinner by five-thirty. \_\_\_\_\_
4. When will they have the work finished (*terminar*)? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
5. We will have known each other for twelve years this August. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
6. Will you (*pl. fam.*) have your dresses ironed (*planchar*) by this afternoon? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
7. Will you have all this clothing washed by tonight? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
8. He won't have the pharmacy (*la farmacia*) opened by then. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
9. We have to go now; if we go later, they'll have left already. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

10. If you give all the food to the dog, he'll have all of it eaten by tomorrow. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
11. You needn't worry: I'm sure they'll have told her everything by now (*para este momento*). \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
12. I suppose that everyone will have gone to bed by midnight (*la medianoche*). \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
13. At this rate (*A este paso*), you'll have fried more potatoes than McDonald's by the end of the week.  
 \_\_\_\_\_
14. If you lose this election, you will have lost more elections than anybody (*nadie*). \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
15. If you win this election, you will have proven that it is possible to fool (*engañar*) all the people all the time. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Expresses probability:** You also can use the future perfect to express probability or conjecture with regard to something that took place in the *recent past*.

It is in the conjecture that the future perfect differs from the present perfect tense. Note this difference in the following two sentences:

present perfect	future perfect
Él lo <i>ha hecho</i> . He <i>has done</i> it.	Él lo <i>habrá hecho</i> . He <i>must have done</i> it; he's <i>probably done</i> it.

The first sentence is simply reporting an action; there is no uncertainty on the speaker's part. In the second sentence, though the speaker appears reasonably certain, there is still a little room left for doubt. It is this slight uncertainty which is expressed in this use of the future perfect.

*examples:*

Lo siento. **Me habré dormido.**  
I'm sorry. *I must have fallen asleep.*

**Habrás estado** aquí.  
*You must have been here.*

¿Quién **habrá escrito** tal cosa?  
Who *could have written* such a thing?

**Nos habremos perdido.**  
*We must have gotten lost.*

**Habréis leído** el libro.  
*You must have read* the book.

¿Adónde **habrán ido**?  
Where *could they have gone*?

## ejercicio

## III-4-2

1. Fernando must have sent these flowers to me. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. He must have paid our bill. How nice! \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Fido must have stolen these slippers (*las zapatillas*). \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Where has my little dog gone (can my little dog have gone)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Abdul looks (*verse*) pretty (*bien*) mad; Farrah must have told him everything. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. The kitchen stinks (*oler mal*)! Dorothy must have made (prepared) dinner again. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. That is a lie! You must have heard it from Roger. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. How does he know these things? He must have read my diary (*el diario*). \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. When could this have happened? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Arthur must have known that Mary burned (*quemar*) all his love letters (*cartas de amor*). \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. You must have known that he was married. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. I must have been crazy (in order) to buy vitamins (*la vitamina*) over the telephone (*por teléfono*). \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. Bears must have eaten our food. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. It must have been terrible to discover that cockroaches were the real owners of your house. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
15. She must have given you a fake (*falso*) telephone number. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

