

FUTURE TENSES

There are a number of different ways of referring to the future in English. It is important to remember that we are expressing more than simply the time of the action or event. Obviously, any 'future' tense will always refer to a time 'later than now', but it may also express our attitude to the future event.

1) Simple Present	The train leaves at 3 o'clock	(Time-tabled events)
2) Will (is a modal verb and is used to express a mood)	I'll be free for most of the summer I'll give you a lift to the cinema you will hate this party	(neutral future, simple prediction) (willingness) (prediction)
3) Be going to	I'm going to spend 6 months in the U.K.	(Plans and intentions)
4) Present Continuous	I'm starting work in September	(arrangements)
5) be going to	it's going to rain you are going to hate this party	(present evidence for the future) (prediction)
6) Be about to/due to	The plane is about to take off	(event happening immediately/very soon)
7) Be to	The President is to visit Italy You are to travel directly to London	(formal - officially arranged) (Obligation) (course of events, routine)
8) Will be doing	You'll be seeing Bob in the office, won't you? This time next week I'll be sun-bathing.	(An action in progress in the future)
9) Future perfect	You will have forgotten me by then!	(what will in the future be a past event - projecting ourselves into the future and looking back at a completed action)

1) SIMPLE PRESENT: something already arranged as in a timetable or programme. (**NOT personal arrangements**).

When referring to a future event that is planned and is not likely to change:

*The museum opens at 9 o'clock. What time does the film start? What time do you finish work?
What time is your flight? Christmas Eve is on a Tuesday this year*

2) WILL/'LL: what we think will happen – no reference to the present. At the moment of making a decision, use '**will**'. Once you have made the decision, talk about it using '**going to**'. When you want to talk about future facts or things you believe to be true about the future, use '**will**'. If you are not so certain about the future, use 'will' with '**probably**', '**possibly**', '**I think**', '**I hope**'

Will DOES NOT: express an intention - **NEVER** use it when you have already decided/arranged

We decide to do something **at the time of speaking** (suddenly): *what would you like? I'll have a cup of tea*

BUT: *Have you decided what to have? Yes, I'm going to have a cup of tea*

Use **WILL** for:

Predictions: *One day people will travel to Mars*

Threats: *I'll hit you if you do that again*

Promises: *I promise I won't get drunk again*

Offers/when agreeing/asking somebody to do something: *I'll do that for you! - Will you be quiet?*

Will you give me a hand? (please decide whether to give me a hand)

BUT: *Are you going to give me a hand (have you already decided...?)*

***We generally use will after:** think/don't think/I'm sure/ probably/ suppose/ expect/ doubt/ definitely etc.

***but the present simple after:** hope/after/as soon as/before/by the time/ until/ till/ when/while/unless/if

***Use will:** in the main clause after conditions with if/when (first conditional)

WON'T: can be used to talk about **refusal** when it relates to present situations

The car won't start It's no good trying to persuade him. He won't go and that's that.

I can't get these pictures to download. I keep clicking on this icon, but they won't download.

SHALL I/SHALL WE...? When planning and/or organizing something, asking opinions/making suggestions, offers, asking for advice *Shall I shut the window? Shall we go to the cinema?*

We usually use **shall for offers** (*Shall I carry your bag?*) and **will for requests** (*Will you give me a hand?*)

Sometimes there is no great difference between will and going to: use *will* for predictions when the outside evidence is not so obvious– use *going to* with “present reality/evidence.”

I think the weather is going to be nice *I think the weather will be nice* (

BUT: *I feel terrible; I think I'm going to be sick!* (imminent future/evidence)

3) GOING TO: (present and future at the same time) - If we say that something in the future **is going to happen**, it is usually already planned or decided, or it is starting to happen, or we can see it coming now. **Going to** expresses **personal** resolution and determination – (again, we are not only talking about a future event but also about an existing present situation). Decision has been taken **but perhaps it has not been arranged yet**, (future intentions that, at the moment of speaking, have already been decided). It's the first stage before the present continuous: first you have and express the intention/decision (going to), then you arrange it (continuous).

Intend to do: *I'm going to have an early night - I'm going to make a cup of tea*

Decided but not arranged: *The windows are dirty I'm going to clean them later*

Intention: *I'm going to spend three months in Russia*

Have you decided? *Are you going to watch TV this evening?*

I was going to: Implies that you intended to do it but then you didn't *I was going to phone you!*

4) PRESENT CONTINUOUS: (present and future at the same time) - implies: plan/invitation given or accepted/something **already arranged**. We are not only talking about a future event but also about an existing present situation (invitation has been given and accepted, etc.). Common with verbs of movement

It is normally followed by a time expression: tomorrow, next week, in 2020 etc.

She is going to London tomorrow. (She has made arrangements) - *I'm flying to Lille on Monday* (I've got my ticket)

Small difference between present continuous and going to – often either form is possible

The present continuous tense is common with verbs of movement and is mainly used to talk about personal arrangements and fixed plans.

5) GOING TO – PRESENT EVIDENCE/REALITY FOR THE FUTURE: used for predictions – something we can see coming, we have '**present evidence/present reality**'.

...black clouds in the sky: *It's going to rain!* -woman pregnant: *She's going to have a baby*

EXAMPLES: WILL – GOING TO – CONTINUOUS

Don't lend your car to Ahmed. He'll crash it. (a prediction based on my knowledge of his driving habits.)

Look out! We're going to crash! (present reality: we are seconds away from hitting something)

Some day she will marry and have a baby. (prediction based on my knowledge of what people usually do)

My daughter is going to get married. (present reality: she's engaged)

My daughter is getting married next week. (arrangements have been made)

My daughter is going to have a baby. (present reality: she's pregnant)

Rose and Bill both have blue eyes, so their baby will have blue eyes. (prediction based on my knowledge)

I'm meeting Jim at the airport (both Jim and I have discussed this; arrangements have been made)

6) BE ABOUT TO: very near future (you can see it happening, it's imminent)

The plane is about to take off - The 100 metre race is about to start

7) BE TO: Future event **officially arranged**

The queen is to visit Canada next week - The finance ministers are to meet next month to discuss the crisis

- 8) WILL BEING – future continuous:** (suggests that something in the future has already been fixed/decided)
- a) actions in progress (going on) at a specific point in the future: *This time tomorrow I'll be lying in the sun*
When you arrive, I'll be waiting for you outside the station. – bob will be giving another talk next week
 - b) actions happening over a period of time in the future: *Sorry, I can't go on the trip. I will be working the whole weekend. -*
While you're studying, I'll be practicing yoga
 - c) to express repeated or habitual actions in the future: *I'm going on holiday tomorrow, but I'll be checking my e-mail at least once a day.*
 - d) for future arrangements and plans that are less definite and formal: *The band will be performing live at the end of October. - We will be arriving in Prague soon.*
 - e) It's a **polite way** of asking about somebody's plans (means "what have you already decided"): *Will you be using the car tomorrow? If not, can I borrow it?- t*
If you are talking to guest: *"when will you be leaving?" sounds better than "when are you leaving?"*

- 9) FUTURE PERFECT:** usually with: **by lunch/dinner/tomorrow/then etc – before, by the time**
The train leaves at 9am. You arrive at the station at 9.15. When you arrive, the train will have left

It expresses the idea that something will occur/happen before another action in the future.

- a) for actions completed before a point in the future: *By the time we get home, the film will have started.*
You will have forgotten me by then! - By next November, I will have received my promotion.
- b) with FOR:
This time next week I'll have been working here for 3 years. - In October my parents will have been married for 50 years.

ADDITIONAL EXERCISES

10. What do you say to your friend in these situations? Use the words given in brackets. Use the present continuous (I am doing), going to or will (I'll).

- 1 You have made all your holiday arrangements. Your destination is Jamaica.
FRIEND: Have you decided where to go for your holiday yet? YOU: I (go) _____ to Jamaica.
- 2 You have made an appointment with the dentist for Friday morning.
FRIEND: Shall we meet on Friday morning? YOU: I can't on Friday. I _____ (go) to the dentist
- 3 You and some friends are planning a holiday in Spain. You have decided to hire a car, but you haven't arranged this yet.
FRIEND: How do you plan to travel round Spain? By train?
You: No, we _____ (hire) a car
- 4 Your friend has two young children. She wants to go out tomorrow evening. You offer to look after the children.
FRIEND: I want to go out tomorrow evening, but I don't have a babysitter. YOU: That's no problem I _____ (look after) them!
- 5 You have already arranged to have lunch with Sue tomorrow.
FRIEND: Are you free at lunchtime tomorrow? YOU: No, I _____ (have lunch) with Sue
- 6 You are in a restaurant. You and your friend are looking at the menu. Maybe your friend has decided what to have. You ask her/him.
YOY: What _____ (you / have)? FRIEND: I don't know. I can't make up my mind.
- 7 You and a friend are reading. It's getting a bit dark and your friend is having trouble reading. You decide to turn on the light.
FRIEND: It's getting a bit dark, isn't it? It's difficult to read. YOU: Yes I _____ (turn on) the light
- 8 You and a friend are reading. it's getting a bit dark and you decide to turn on the light. You stand up and walk towards the light switch.
FRIEND: What are you doing? YOU: I _____ (turn on) the light

11. Put the verb into the most suitable form. Use a present tense (simple or continuous), will or shall.

Conversation 1 (in the morning)

JENNY: (1) _____ (you / do) anything tomorrow evening, Helen?

HELEN: No, why?

JENNY: Well, would you like to go to the cinema? *Strangers on a Plane* is on. I want to see it, but I don't want to go alone.

HELEN: OK, (2) _____ (I / come) with you. What time (3) _____ (we / meet)?
 JENNY: Well, the film (4) _____ (start) at 8.45, so (5) _____ (I / meet) you at about 8.30 outside the cinema, OK?
 HELEN: Fine. (6) _____ (I / see) Tin a later this evening. (7) _____ (I / ask) her if she wants to come too?
 JENNY: Yes, do that. (8) _____ (I / see) you tomorrow then. Bye.
 HELEN: Jenny and I (9) _____ (go) to the cinema tomorrow night to see Strangers on a Plane. Why don't you come too?
 TINA: I'd love to come. What time (10) _____ (the film / k start)?
 HELEN: 8.45.
 TINA: (11) _____ (you / meet) outside the cinema?
 HELEN: Yes, at 8.30. Is that OK for you?
 TINA: Yes, (12) _____ (I / be) there at 8.30.

12. Put the verb into the most suitable form. Sometimes there is more than one possibility.

1 A has decided to learn a language.

A: I've decided to try and learn a foreign language.

B: Have you? Which language (1) _____ (you / learn)?

A: Spanish.

B: (2) _____ (you / do) a course?

A: Yes, (3) _____ (it / start) next week.

B: That's great. I'm sure (4) _____ (you / enjoy) it.

A: I hope so. But I think (5) _____ (it / be) difficult.

2 A wants to know about B's holiday plans.

A: I hear (1) _____ (you / go) on holiday soon.

B: That's right. (2) _____ (we / go) to Finland.

A: I hope (3) _____ (you / have) a nice time.

B: Thanks. (4) _____ (I / send) you a postcard and (5) _____ (I / get) in touch with you when (6) _____ (I / get) back.

3 A invites B to a party.

A: (1) _____ (I / have) a party next Saturday. Can you come?

B: On Saturday? I'm not sure. Some friends of mine (2) _____ (come) to stay with me next week, but I think (3) _____ (they / leave) by Saturday. But if (4) _____ (they / be) still here, (5) _____ (I / not / be) able to come to the party.

A: OK. Well, tell me as soon as (6) _____ (you / know).

B: Right. (7) _____ (I / call) you during the week.

4 A and B are two secret agents arranging a meeting. They are talking on the phone.

A: Well, what time (1) _____ (we / meet)?

B: Come to the cafe by the station at 4 o'clock. (2) _____ (I / wait) for you when (3) _____ (you / arrive) (4) _____ (I / sit) by the window and (5) _____ (I / wear) a bright green sweater.

A: OK. (6) _____ (Agent 307 / come) too?

B: No, she can't be there.

A: Oh. (7) _____ (I / bring) the documents?

B: Yes. (8) _____ (I / explain) everything when (9) _____ (I / see) you. And don't be late.

A: OK. (10) _____ (I / try) to be on time.

13. Put the verb into the correct form. Choose from the following:

present continuous (I am doing)

will ('ll) / won't

present simple (I do)

will be doing

going to (I'm going to do)

shall

1 I feel a bit hungry. I think _____ (I / have) something to eat.

2 Why are you putting on your coat? _____ (you / go) somewhere?

3 What time _____ (I / phone) you tonight? About 7.30?

4 Look! That plane is flying towards the airport _____ (it / land).

5 We must do something soon, before _____ (it / be) too late.

- 6 I'm sorry you've decided to leave the company _____ (I / miss) you when _____ (you / go).
 7 _____ (I / give) you my phone number? If _____ (I / give) you my number, _____
 (you / call) me?
 8 Are you still watching that programme? What time _____ (it / end)?
 9 _____ (I / go) to a wedding next weekend. A friend of mine _____ (get) married.
 10 I'm not ready yet _____ (I / tell) you when _____ (I / be) ready. I promise _____ (I /
 not / be) very long.
 11 A: Where are you going?
 B: To the hairdresser's. _____ (I / have) my hair cut.
 12 She was very rude to me I refuse to speak to her again until _____ (she / apologise).
 13 I wonder where _____ (we / live) ten years from now?
 14 What do you plan to do when _____ (you I finish) your course at college?

KEY

<p>10</p> <p>1. I'm going to Jamaica 2 I'm going to the dentist. 3 No, we're going to hire a car. 4 I'll look after the children. 5 I'm having lunch with Sue. 6 What are you going to have? / What are you having? 7 I'll turn on the light. 8 I'm going to turn on the light.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>1 are you doing 2 I'll come 3 shall we meet 4 starts 5 I'll meet 6 I'm seeing 7 Shall I ask 8 I'll see 9 are going 10 does the film start 11 Are you meeting 12 I'll be</p>
<p>12</p> <p>1 (1) are you going to learn (2) Are you going to do / Are you doing (3) it starts (4) you'll enjoy / you're going to enjoy (5) it will be / it's going to be</p> <p>2 (1) you're going (2) We're going (3) you have (4) I'll send (5) I'll get (6) I get</p> <p>3 (1) I'm having / I'm going to have (2) are coming (3) they'll have left (4) they're (5) I won't be / I will not be (6) you know (7) I'll call</p> <p>4 (1) shall we meet (2) I'll be waiting (3) you arrive (4) I'll be sitting (5) I'll be wearing (6) Is Agent 307 coming / Is Agent 307 going to come / Will Agent 307 be coming (7) Shall I bring (8) I'll explain / I'm going to explain (9) I see (10) I'll try</p>	<p>13</p> <p>1 I'll have 2 Are you going 3 shall I phone 4 it's going to land 5 it's I it is 6 I'll miss / I'm going to miss // you go / you've gone 7 Shall I give // I give // will you call 8 does it end 9 I'm going // is getting 10 I'll tell // I'm // I won't be 11 I'm going to have / I'm having 12 she apologises 13 we'll be living / we'll live 14 you finish / you've finished</p>