

# TALKING ABOUT THE FUTURE

## Task 1

Match these sentences with the function – what idea of future is expressed?

- |                                                                                                               |                                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Simon glanced at her uneasily. "Are you all right? You look like <u>you're going to pass</u> out."         | A. Timetabled events, e.g. TV programmes or train departures           |
| 2. Look, go if you want to go. I don't care. <u>I'll stay</u> here without you. I can work; I can get a job   | B. Personal arrangements                                               |
| 3. I'm sure my life <u>will be</u> fantastic when I get back.                                                 | C. Predictions (when you can see the evidence)                         |
| 4. The train <u>leaves</u> in 5 minutes                                                                       | D. Predictions (based on no evidence), personal opinions on the future |
| 5. " <u>I'm not going to hurt</u> you," he said. "I'd never hurt you.                                         | E. "Scientific" predictions, or made by some calculation               |
| 6. Now you have realized. You <u>will grow</u> old, and <u>will</u> someday <u>die</u> . And Magnus will not. | F. General future intentions (not arranged)                            |
| 7. Just promise me <u>you won't come</u> home.                                                                | G. Decisions made at the time of speaking                              |
| 8. "Eric's <u>doing</u> a poetry reading over at Java Jones tonight," Simon said                              | H. Promises                                                            |
| 9. "Come on, <u>I'll buy</u> you some food."                                                                  | I. Decisions already made                                              |
| 10. "Simon has made his decision, and it's his decision to make. He's <u>going to summon</u> Raziël."         | J. Offers, refusals                                                    |

## Task 2

Following task 1, complete the table below – what idea of the future is expressed by each tense?

• Will + infinitive

• Going to + infinitive

• Present Continuous

• Present Simple

- |                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A. Timetabled events, e.g. TV programmes or train departures           |
| B. Personal arrangements                                               |
| C. Predictions (when you can see the evidence)                         |
| D. Predictions (based on no evidence), personal opinions on the future |
| E. "Scientific" predictions, or made by some calculation               |
| F. General future intentions (not arranged)                            |
| G. Decisions made at the time of speaking                              |
| H. Promises                                                            |
| I. Decisions already made                                              |
| J. Offers, refusals                                                    |