OTHER WAYS TO EXPRESS THE FUTURE

A Very Busy Month Ahead

Next month **is going to be** particularly busy for Laura. She **is due to** start a new position at an international company on September 15th. Before that, she **is about to** attend a training course that will prepare her for her new responsibilities.
The company **is expected to** launch a new product later this year, and Laura will be part of the marketing team responsible for promoting it. According to her manager, the product **is likely to** become very popular among younger customers.
Laura has already made several plans. She **is meeting** her new colleagues next Tuesday, and **she is flying** to Madrid at the end of the month for a business conference. She has also arranged to meet an old university friend while she is there.
There are still some things she needs to organize. She **is supposed to** receive her new laptop before the training course, although there has been a delay with the delivery. If everything goes according to plan, she will have completed her training by the time she starts her new job.
Laura knows the next few weeks **are going to be** demanding, but she is excited about what lies ahead.

GRAMMAR: OTHER WAYS TO EXPRESS THE FUTURE

English has several ways to talk about future events. The choice depends on how certain the event is, whether it has been arranged, or whether it is expected to happen.

1. Be about to + infinitive

Used for something that will happen very soon.
- The meeting is about to start.
- Hurry up! The train is about to leave.

We normally use this for the immediate future, not for distant plans.

2. Be due to + infinitive

Used for something that is scheduled or expected to happen at a particular time.
- The plane is due to arrive at 8:30.
- She is due to start her new job next Monday.

It is especially common for official schedules, timetables, and arrangements.

3. Be supposed to + infinitive

Used when something is expected, planned, or arranged to happen.
- The technician is supposed to arrive this afternoon.
- We are supposed to finish the project by Friday.

It can also express an expectation or obligation: You are supposed to wear a uniform at work.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4. Be expected to + infinitive

Used when we believe something will happen because it is predicted or considered likely.
- Sales are expected to increase next year.
- The new restaurant is expected to become very popular.

This structure is common in news, business, and formal English.

5. Be likely to + infinitive

Used to say that something has a high possibility of happening.
- She is likely to get the promotion.
- Prices are likely to rise next year.

Be unlikely to expresses a low possibility: The company is unlikely to change its policy.

6. Present Continuous for future arrangements

Used for personal arrangements that have already been organized, often with a specific time or place.
- I am meeting my manager tomorrow.
- We are flying to London next Friday.
- She is having dinner with her clients tonight.

7. Simple Present for schedules and timetables

Used for official schedules and fixed programs.
- The train leaves at 7:45 tomorrow morning.
- The conference starts next Monday.
- The flight arrives at 10:20.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercise 1 – Choose the Best Future Form

1. Hurry up! The movie _____.

a) is about to start **b)** is due to start next year

2. The president _____ the country next Tuesday.

a) is due to visit **b)** is about to visiting

3. We _____ our new clients tomorrow afternoon.

a) are meeting **b)** are expected to meeting

4. The new airport _____ thousands of passengers every day.

a) is expected to handle **b)** is about to handling

5. The company _____ its new offices next month.

a) is supposed to open **b)** is supposed opening

6. According to analysts, demand for electric cars _____ significantly.

a) is likely to increase **b)** is likely increasing

7. The train _____ at 6:45 tomorrow morning.

a) leaves **b)** is leaving according to the timetable

8. Be careful! That glass _____.

a) is about to fall **b)** is due falling

Exercise 2 – Complete the Sentences

1. The new employee _____ next Monday. **(be due / start)**

2. Look at those dark clouds! It _____. **(be about / rain)**

3. We _____ our suppliers tomorrow morning. **(meet)**

4. The new policy _____ next year. **(be expected / reduce)**

5. The manager _____ the results this afternoon. **(be supposed / announce)**

6. Experts believe unemployment _____ over the next few months. **(be likely / decrease)**

7. The flight _____ at 9:15 according to the timetable. **(leave)**

8. Hurry! The store _____! **(be about / close)**

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercise 3 – Rewrite the Sentences

1. The plane is scheduled to land at 11:30. **(be due to)**

_____

2. The meeting will start very soon. **(be about to)**

_____

3. Experts predict that prices will increase next year. **(be expected to)**

_____

4. There is a good chance that she will get the job. **(be likely to)**

_____

5. They have arranged to have dinner with their clients tomorrow. **(Present Continuous)**

_____

6. According to the timetable, the bus will arrive at 8:00. **(Simple Present)**

_____

Exercise 4 – Identify the Meaning

1. The train is due to arrive at 5:30.
   a) It will probably arrive sometime in the future.
   b) It is scheduled to arrive at a particular time.

2. The baby is about to wake up.
   a) It will happen very soon.
   b) It is scheduled for next week.

3. She is meeting her manager tomorrow.
   a) She has made an arrangement.
   b) It is an official timetable.

4. Sales are expected to increase next year.
   a) This is a prediction.
   b) This is an immediate event.

5. He is supposed to call me tonight.
   a) This is expected or planned.
   b) This is certain to happen immediately.

6. The company is likely to expand next year.
   a) There is a strong possibility.
   b) The company has already started expanding.

LIVEWORKSHEETS