

FUTURE TENSES

There are four different ways in English to talk about the future. You can use the simple future, the going to - future, the present progressive and the present simple to write or talk about future actions. There is often only a little difference between the future tenses, especially between the going to - future and the present progressive. It also depends on the country and region and on the communication what future tense is used. In written English the simple future is usually used while in spoken English we use the going to - future more often.

The simple future (will – future) is used:

- to talk about future actions, we **can't influence or control**.
- to foretell future actions or to express **hopes, expectations, fears, offers, promises, refusals....**

Key words: I'm sure, I believe, I expect, I hope, I suppose, I think, I'm afraid, I wonder, I fear, I worry, I promise, I guess or perhaps, possibly, surely, probably, maybe

- with I / we for **spontaneous reactions or making promises**
I shall is sometimes used instead of I will.

The going to - future is used:

- to talk about future things you **intend to do, plan or decided to do**
Examples:
Did you know that Sarah is in hospital? - No, I didn't. I'll visit her this afternoon. (spontaneous reaction »»» will - future)
Yes, I'm going to visit her next month. (planned action »»» going to - future)
- to foretell future actions for which we have **proofs** that they are going to happen.

The present progressive is used:

- to talk about future things that **are fixed, planned or definitely decided**
The speaker must refer to the future and not to the present.
Examples: I am visiting my grandparents tomorrow.
What are you doing next Friday?

The present simple is used:

- to talk about **times of arrivals and departures** of traffic and times of events.
Examples: The train leaves at 10.20.
The bus goes at 8.30.
When does the concert begin?

FUTURE TENSES 1

Fill in **going to** or the **simple future tense** (=will future).

1. I _____ them tomorrow evening. (meet)
2. _____ him for help? (you ask)
3. Susan _____ the bathroom next weekend. (paint)
4. I think he _____ her name. (find out)
5. I _____ a walk in the garden this evening. (take)
6. Let's hope that the wind _____ away the clouds. (blow)
7. Mary _____ a good mark because she has studied hard. (get)
8. Are you sure, you _____ in a tent in your holidays? (sleep)
9. Peter _____ his new bike in the park. (ride)
10. I hope Jane _____ me to her party. (invite)
11. I _____ dad's car tomorrow afternoon. (wash)
12. Mum thinks dad _____ home early tonight. (come)
13. It _____ very cold in the mountains. Take a sweater with you.
(probably be)
14. We _____ our bikes in the park. Can you come with us? (ride)
15. I think Susan _____ in love with Mike. (fall)
16. It's late. I hope we _____ the bus. (not miss)
17. _____ the new words this time, Peter? (you study)
18. Next summer we _____ at a campsite near a lake. (probably stay)
19. We _____ to Scotland this summer. (go)
20. I promise, I _____ you tomorrow. (phone)
21. Maybe he _____ any time next weekend. (not have)
22. She _____ a baby next April. (have)
23. I hope the train _____ delayed. (not be)
24. They _____ the exam. (probably pass)
25. The sky is cloudy and grey. It _____. (rain)