

FUTURE PLANS AND DECISIONS



When we talk about plans or decisions for the future, we can use the **present continuous**, **going to** or **will + infinitive**.

Future plans

We use the **present continuous** to talk about plans or arrangements for the future:

I'm **meeting** an old friend for lunch tomorrow.

I'm **flying** to France next Wednesday.

Are you **going** on holiday this summer?

We do not use **will** to talk about future plans.

We can use **will + infinitive** to talk about something that is possible in the future:

'Where are you going on holiday this summer?' 'I don't know. Perhaps I'll **go** to Italy' Maybe I **will see** you at the party next week.

will + infinitive is often used with **I think**, **I don't think**, **I'm sure**, **probably**, **perhaps**, **maybe**, etc.

Dialogue

A: We **are going** to Spain this summer. What about you?

B: I don't know yet. Maybe I **will go** to Italy.

We use **going to + infinitive** to talk about intentions or decisions for the future:

I've made my decision. I'm **going to quit** smoking.

Are you **going to come** to the party tonight?

We use **will + infinitive** when we make a spontaneous decision at the time of speaking (not before):

'It's cold in here.' I'll **go** and shut the window.'

'Can you send me the information I need?' 'Sure, I'll **do** it right away.'

Dialogue

A: Have you decided what to cook tonight?

B: Yes, I'm **going to cook** fish and rice.

B: Fine. I'll **bring** a bottle of white wine.



Practice 1 - Future plans

Put the verb in brackets into the most suitable form, present continuous or 'will' + infinitive:

1. What _____ (you/do) on Saturday night? Would you like to go to a concert?
2. I think I _____ (stay) at home this evening. I'm feeling a bit ill.
3. I'm afraid I can't meet you for a coffee tomorrow afternoon. I _____ (have) lunch with a colleague.
4. We can meet on Sunday. I _____ (not/do) anything special.
5. The train _____ (probably/arrive) late again.
6. What time _____ (you/meet) Mike tomorrow?
7. Do you think it _____ (rain) tonight?
8. I _____ (travel) to Thailand next week. Maybe I _____ (send) you a postcard.
9. I _____ (work) late on Tuesday, so I _____ (probably/not/be) free till late evening.
10. Jack _____ (host) a party next Thursday. A lot of people _____ (come).

Practice 2 - Decisions for the future

Complete the dialogues using 'will' or 'going to' + infinitive:

1. A: I've decided. I _____ (look) for a new job.
B: Good idea! I _____ (help) you prepare a good CV.
2. A: When _____ (you/bring) those books that you promised to lend me?
B: Oh, I'm sorry. I completely forgot about that. I _____ (bring) them in tomorrow morning.
3. A: So, you've decided to buy a new car. What type of car _____ (you/choose)?
B: I don't know.
A: Mark knows a lot about cars. I _____ (ask) him to phone you later on.
4. A: What _____ (you/get) John for his birthday?
B: I _____ (buy) him a digital camera. And you?
A: I haven't decided yet. Perhaps I _____ (get) him an iPad.
5. A: _____ (you/visit) Paul next Friday?
B: I don't know yet. I _____ (call) you tomorrow to let you know.
6. A: What _____ (you/do) for New Year's Eve?
B: We _____ (eat) at a fancy restaurant.
7. A: Why have you turned off the music?
B: I _____ (lie) down for a while. I was feeling a bit tired.
A: OK, I _____ (not/disturb) you then.
8. A: Have you decided where you _____ (stay) on your trip?
B: Well, I _____ (not/stay) at the Siesta Hotel, that's for sure. It's too expensive.