

TALKING ABOUT THE FUTURE

Task 1

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

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| 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 | |
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| | | 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) |
| • Present Continuous | • Present Simple | |
| | | G. Decisions made at the time of speaking |
| | | H. Promises |
| | | I. Decisions already made |
| | | J. Offers, refusals |