

TALKING ABOUT THE FUTURE

Task 1

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

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Simon glanced at her uneasily. "Are you all right? You look like you're going to pass out." 2. Look, go if you want to go. I don't care. I'll stay here without you. I can work; I can get a job 3. I'm sure my life will be fantastic when I get back. 4. The train leaves in 5 minutes 5. "I'm not going to hurt you," he said. "I'd never hurt you. 6. Now you have realized. You will grow old, and will someday die. And Magnus will not. 7. Just promise me you won't come home. 8. "Eric's doing a poetry reading over at Java Jones tonight," Simon said 9. "Come on, I'll buy you some food." 10. "Simon has made his decision, and it's his decision to make. He's going to summon Raziel." | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 |
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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