








FUTURE TENSES

1) Drag the example sentences into the chart below to learn how future tenses are used.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I will love you forever. 2. I'm going to see the new film. 3. You will meet your love today. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. I'll help you with your bags. Shall I carry your bag? 5. I'll have the chicken. 6. We are getting married on 6th July at 6.00. 7. It's going to rain |
|---|---|

| will | Be going to | Present continuous |
|--|--|---|
| Promises <hr/>  | Plan or intention <hr/>  | Arrangement <hr/>  |
| Prediction <hr/>  | Prediction based on evidence <hr/>  | |
| Spontaneous decisions <hr/>  | | |
| Offers and suggestions <hr/>  | | |

If you are still not sure how to use different future constructions, you can read the rules below.

5A Future forms

2.5 Decisions, plans and arrangements

We use **will** to make a spontaneous decision (= a decision while we are speaking):

OK, I'll come for a run with you.

We use **going to** to talk about future plans (= decisions we made earlier):

We're not going to stay at that hotel again.

We use the present continuous to talk about arrangements (= fixed plans, usually involving other people and specific times and places):

She's travelling to Central America on Sunday.

There is not a big difference in meaning between **going to** and the present continuous to talk about future plans / arrangements. Often both are possible:

I'm visiting / going to visit my sister this weekend.

2.6 Offers, promises and suggestions

We use **will** to make offers and promises:

I'll help you, if you like.

I'll always be here when you need me.

We use **shall + I** in questions to make offers and suggestions:

A *Shall I carry that for you?*

B *Oh, yes, please.*

A *Shall we go swimming on Saturday?*

B *That's a good idea.*

2.7 Predictions

We use **will** to make predictions based on our opinions:

I'm sure you'll learn a lot when you go travelling.

Don't put that there! It'll fall off.

We use **going to** to make predictions based on concrete facts (= things that we can see or information that we have read, etc.):

We should leave soon. The roads are going to be busy.

It's not going to rain. There isn't a cloud in the sky.



Tip In negative sentences, say *I don't think + will*.

I don't think the forest will recover. NOT ~~I think the forest won't recover.~~



Underline the best option in each sentence.

1. **A** It's a bit hot in here.
B Yes ... I'll/ I'm going to open a window.
- 2 I'm going to the shop. Will / Shall I get you anything?
- 3 **A** Why are you carrying those flowers?
B Because I'll/ I'm going to ask Sara to marry me!
- 4 **A** I'm so tired.
B I'll /I shall make you a coffee, if you want.
- 5 I've got a bad stomach. I think I'll/ I'm going to be ill.

Complete the sentences with **will, shall or going to** and the words in brackets.

1 _____ (I carry) your bag down the stairs?

2 What time _____ (we / meet)?

3 _____ (you / cook) me a nice meal tonight?

4 I _____ (go) to bed when this programme is finished - I'm tired.

5 I _____ (come) back one day - I promise.

6 I _____ (have) a steak - no, I _____ (have) fish, please.

7 According to the website, she _____ (talk) about some of her trips. .

8 I think you _____ (like) my chocolate cake a lot.

Complete the telephone conversation using the verbs in brackets with **will / shall, going to or the present continuous**. Sometimes there is more than one possible answer.

A Hi Dan, it's Tony. Listen, I _____ (come) to Bristol for a couple of days next week for a big meeting with a client. I _____ (try) to see some of my old friends while I'm there. Do you want to meet up one evening?

B Sounds good. It _____ (be) good to see you again after all these years.

A Yeah, I know, _____ (we / say) Tuesday evening?

B Er... no, that's no good for me. I _____ (take) the kids to the cinema on Tuesday. We've already got tickets.

A OK, no problem. What about Wednesday?

B Yes, that's fine. What time _____ (you / be) free, do you think?

A The meeting _____ (probably / finish) at about 5 o'clock - that's what the client said, anyway.

B OK, so around 7 then? _____ (I / pick) you up at your hotel? Where _____ (you / stay)?

A _____ (I / be) at the King's Hotel. I reserved a room last week.

B Perfect. listen, I _____ (phone) you before I leave, at about 6.30, to check you're ready.

A Don't worry I _____ (be) ready.