

## FUTURE TENSES

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

1. I will love you forever.
2. I'm going to see the new film.
3. You will meet your love today.
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 6<sup>th</sup> July at 6.00.
7. It's going to rain

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