Future forms

FUTURE

Present Continuous
(for future arrangements)

future arrangements
Lorna and Jamie **are getting** married in October.
We're meeting at 10.00 tomorrow in Richard's office.
Jane's **leaving** on Friday and **coming back** next Tuesday.

- We often use the present continuous for future arrangements.
- There is very little difference between the present continuous and *be going to* for future plans / arrangements and often you can use either.
  - *be going to* shows that you have made a decision.
    We're going to get married next year.
  - the present continuous emphasizes that you have made the arrangements.
    We're getting married on October 12th. (= we've booked the church)
- We often use the present continuous with verbs relating to travel arrangements, e.g. *go, come, arrive, leave, etc.*
  He's arriving tomorrow and leaving on Thursday.

Future Simple
(will/won't)

instant decisions, promises, offers, predictions, future facts, suggestions
1 **I'll have** the steak. (instant decision)
I won't tell anybody where you are. (promise)
I'll carry that bag for you. (offer)
You'll love New York! (prediction)
Next year Christmas Day **will be** on a Thursday. (future fact)
2 **Shall** I **help** you with your homework? (offer)
Shall we **eat** out tonight? (suggestion)

1 We use *will / won't* (**NOT** the present simple) for instant decisions, promises, and offers. **NOT** *~~I carry that bag for you.~~*
- We can also use *will / won't* for predictions, e.g. *I think Barcelona will win*, and to talk about future facts, e.g. *The election will be on 1st March.*

2 We use *shall* (**NOT** *will*) with *I* and *we* for offers and suggestions when they are questions.

Be going to
(+ infinitive)

future plans and intentions
My sister's **going to adopt** a child.
Are you **going to buy** a new car or a second-hand one?
I'm not going to go home for the holidays. It's too far.

predictions
Barcelona **are going to win**. They're playing really well.
Look at those black clouds. I think it's **going to rain**.

- We use *be going to* (**NOT** *will / won't*) when we have already decided to do something. **NOT** *My sister will adopt a child.*
- We also use *be going to* to make a prediction about the future, especially when we have some evidence (e.g. *we can see black clouds*).

● Circle the best answer. Sometimes two answers are possible.

1 A _____?
B Tomorrow. My flight is in the morning.
a When will you leave
(b) When are you leaving
(c) When are you going to leave

2 A You must bring the money tomorrow.
B Don't worry, _____.
a I'm not forgetting
b I'm not going to forget
c I won't forget

3 A Do you have any plans for tonight?
B Yes, _____.
a I'll meet some friends
b I'm going to meet some friends
c I'm meeting some friends

4 A The interviews for the new manager were yesterday.
B I think _____.
a Bob is getting the job
b Bob is going to get the job
c Bob will get the job

5 A This suitcase is too heavy for me.
B _____.
a I'll carry it for you
b I'm carrying it for you
c I'm going to carry it for you

6 A What would you like to drink?
B _____.
a I'll have a cappuccino, please
b I'm going to have a cappuccino, please
c I'm having a cappuccino, please

7 A Here's my email address.
B Thanks. _____ tomorrow.
a I'm going to send you the photos
b I'm sending you the photos
c I'll send you the photos

8 A _____ this weekend?
B No, I have to work on Saturday.
a Are you going to go away
b Will you go away
c Are you going away

9 A England are playing Brazil tomorrow.
B I'm sure _____.
a they'll lose
b they're losing
c they're going to lose

10 A My train arrives at 2.15.
B OK, _____ by the information desk.
a I'll meet you
b I'm going to meet you
c I'm meeting you

11 A What time does the film start?
B I don't know. _____ phone the cinema and check?
a Will I
b Am I going to
c Shall I

12 A Do I need to bring an umbrella?
B No, I don't think _____.
a it rains
b it'll rain
c it's going to rain