

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