

3-7 USING THE PRESENT PROGRESSIVE TO EXPRESS FUTURE TIME

(a) Tom is going to come to the party tomorrow. (b) Tom is coming to the party tomorrow. (c) We're going to go to a movie tonight. (d) We're going to a movie tonight. (e) I'm going to stay home this evening. (f) I'm staying home this evening. (g) Ann is going to fly to Chicago next week. (h) Ann is flying to Chicago next week.	The present progressive can be used to express future time. Each pair of example sentences has the same meaning. The present progressive describes <i>definite plans for the future, plans that were made before the moment of speaking</i>. A future meaning for the present progressive is indicated either by future time words (e.g., <i>tomorrow</i>) or by the situation.*
(i) You're going to laugh when you hear this joke. (j) INCORRECT: You're <i>laughing</i> when you hear this joke.	The present progressive is NOT used for predictions about the future. In (i): The speaker is predicting a future event. In (j): The present progressive is not possible; laughing is a prediction, not a planned future event.

*COMPARE: Present situation: *Look! Mary's coming. Do you see her?*

Future situation: *Are you planning to come to the party? Mary's coming. So is Alex.*

Directions: Complete the dialogues with any of the following verbs that make sense. Use the present progressive if possible.

<i>cut</i>	<i>go</i>	<i>spend</i>
<i>do</i>	<i>leave</i>	<i>stay</i>
<i>drive</i>	<i>meet</i>	<i>take</i>
<i>fly</i>		

1. A: What **are** you **doing** tomorrow afternoon?

B: I **am** going to the mall.

A: Why?

B: I **am going** shopping for some new clothes. How about you?

What _____ you _____ tomorrow afternoon?

A: I _____ to a movie with Tom. After the movie, we _____ out to dinner. Would you like to meet us for dinner?

B: No, thanks. I can't. I _____ Heidi at 6:30 at the new seafood restaurant on Fifth Street.

2. A: What courses _____ you _____ this year?

B: I _____ English, biology, math and psychology.

A: What courses _____ you _____ this year?

B: I _____ English literature, chemistry, calculus and history.

A: That should keep you busy!

3. A: I _____ on vacation tomorrow.

B: Where _____ you _____?

A: To San Francisco.

B: How are you getting there? Are you _____ your car?

A: I _____. I have to be at the airport by seven tomorrow morning.

B: Do you need a ride to the airport?

A: No, thanks. I _____ a taxi. Are you planning to go somewhere over vacation?

B: No. I _____ here.

4. A: Stop! Annie! What _____ you _____?

B: I _____ my hair, Mom.

A: Oh dear!



5. A: You haven't seen my passport, have you?

B: No. Why?

A: I need it because I _____ for Taipei next Monday.

B: Oh? How long will you be there?

A: A week. I _____ the first few days with my brother, who _____ to school there. After that I _____ some old friends I went to school with in Australia several years ago. They've invited me to be their house guest.

B: Sounds like a great trip. Hope you find your passport.