

Future forms

39 will and be going to

We use will:	We use be going to:
for general predictions about the future: <i>It will be hot tomorrow. In ten years' time, people's lives won't be very different.</i>	for general predictions about the future. <i>Be going to</i> is more informal than <i>will</i> : <i>It's going to be hot tomorrow.</i>
We often use <i>I think, I'm sure, probably, definitely</i> , etc. to show how certain we feel: <i>I think he'll do well in his exams. I'm sure we'll win.</i>	for things we expect to happen because of what we know or can see now: <i>Be careful with that knife! Someone's going to get hurt!</i>
for decisions we make at the time we are speaking: <i>I'm tired. I think I'll stay in this evening.</i>	for intentions, when we have already decided to do something: <i>I'm going to stay in today. I've got to write an essay.</i>
for offers and promises: <i>I'll make some coffee. Don't worry, I'll pay you back soon.</i>	

▶▶ See Appendix 7: Verb forms, page 170.

PRACTICE

39a Complete the sentences. Use *will* or *be going to* and the verbs in brackets.

- 0 The traffic's very bad this morning.
We^{re going to be} late for our lecture. (be)
- 1 We could have the party here. I'm sure the neighbours the noise. (not mind)
- 2 Matt probably with us. He doesn't like football. (not come)
- 3 She's working too hard. She ill. (get)
- 4 In twenty years' time, the tree in our garden really tall. (be)
- 5 I some horrible dreams tonight after that film! It was really scary! (have)
- 6 Don't worry about the ink on your shirt. I'm sure nobody it. (notice)
- 7 It a lovely day. Look at that clear blue sky! (be)
- 8 I think we enough time to eat before the film, so let's find a café. (have)



39b Circle the correct answer.


- o A: What are your plans for the weekend?
 B: I 'll / I'm going to go shopping on Saturday and then stay at home on Sunday.
- 1 A: I don't think we've got enough chairs for everyone.
 B: I 'll / 'm going to get some more from next door.
- 2 A: Look! Our bus is coming! Hurry up!
 B: I don't want to run. I think I 'll / 'm going to wait for the next one.
- 3 A: Are you free this afternoon?
 B: No, I've got to go to the library. I 'll / 'm going to look at their collection of old newspapers for my History project.
- 4 A: Please don't tell Kate or Lucy.
 B: OK. I won't / 'm not going to tell anybody. Don't worry.
- 5 A: Have you sold your car yet?
 B: Yes. I 'll / 'm going to get a new one next month.

39c Complete the conversation. Use *will* or *be going to* and the verbs in the box.

be call give live move rent study

- A: Do you plan to go to university?
 B: Yes. I (0) 'm going to study medicine in London.
- A: Brilliant! I'm sure you (1) a great doctor!
 B: Thanks!
- A: Where (2) ?
 B: I don't know. I haven't arranged anything yet. I think I (3) a room in a house with some other students. The problem is that everywhere is very expensive.
- A: My brother (4) to London next month. He's just bought a flat there. I (5) you his phone number. He might be able to help.
 B: Thanks very much! I (6) him tomorrow.

40 Present simple and continuous for future

- We use the present simple for events in the future that are part of a timetable: *Our train leaves at ten o'clock. The library closes at six this evening.*
 - We use the present continuous (not the present simple) to talk about future events that we have planned and arranged: *We're having a party next week. Are you doing anything this evening? I'm meeting Jess at eight tonight.*
-  We use *will* (not the present simple) for decisions we make at the time of speaking, or for offers and promises: *Wait. I'll come with you. (Not I come with you.) I'll meet you at the cinema. (Not I meet you at the cinema.)*

PRACTICE

40a Complete the sentences. Use the present simple or present continuous of the verbs in brackets.

- 0 The kite festival *starts* on Friday evening. (start)
- 1 We by bus. (go)
- 2 Our bus here at seven thirty. (leave)
- 3 We buses in Birmingham. (change)
- 4 The bus to Hereford at four thirty. (get)
- 5 We , so I hope the weather's nice. (camp)
- 6 We – we just like kites. (not compete)
- 7 My sister with us. (not come)
- 8 The festival on Sunday afternoon at about four. (end)

40b Complete the e-mail. Use the present simple or present continuous of the verbs in brackets.

New Message

What (0) *are you doing* (you / do) on Saturday? Amy and I
 (1) (go) to the sale at Zara's. We
 (2) (meet) outside the shop at nine. We won't have
 much time there because our dance lesson (3)
 (start) at ten thirty. It (4) (finish) at twelve, so I
 could meet you after that.

Do you want to come to our house for lunch? I don't think anybody will
 be there, but I can make you something. My parents
 (5) (take) my sister to a swimming competition
 which (6) (begin) at one, I think.

40c Circle the correct answer.

- A: I (0) *get* / *'m getting* the bus to town tonight. There's one that (1) *leaves* / *is leaving* here at seven and (2) *gets* / *is getting* there at half past.
- B: That sounds good. I (3) *see* / *'ll see* you outside McDonald's at about half past.
- A: Do you want to come round tomorrow afternoon?
- B: Thanks, but I can't. I (4) *look* / *'m looking* after my little brother. He's not very well. You haven't got any good board games, have you? He likes playing games.
- A: Yes, we've got a few. I (5) *bring* / *'ll bring* them round this evening.
- A: Could you give me a lift into town tomorrow morning, please? My hair appointment (6) *is* / *is being* at ten.
- B: I can't, I'm afraid. I (7) *help* / *'m helping* in the café tomorrow.
- C: Don't worry. I (8) *give* / *'ll give* you a lift.