

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> , <i>I'm sure</i> , <i>probably</i> , <i>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.

0 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 / I'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 / I'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 / I'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 / I'm not going to tell anybody. Don't worry.

5 A: Have you sold your car yet?
 B: Yes. I'll / I'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) I'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 / I'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 / I'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 / I'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 / I'm helping* in the café tomorrow.

C: Don't worry. I (8) *give / I'll give* you a lift.