

## 4.1 ■ Expressing the future

### Present simple

We use the present simple to talk about future events that are fixed because they are based on a schedule, calendar or timetable.

Pete's flight lands at 11.00 tomorrow morning.

What time does the film start?

### Present continuous

We use the present continuous to talk about personal arrangements for a future day or date.

I'm meeting up with Olivia tonight.

I'm not doing anything later.

#### 1 Choose the correct words.

- 1 We **have / are having** a meeting tomorrow to discuss how to raise funds.
- 2 According to the timetable, the drama group **rehearses / is rehearsing** at six o'clock.
- 3 What do you **do / are you doing** later?
- 4 **Does everyone go / Is everyone going** to Luke's party on Saturday?
- 5 They **don't hold / aren't holding** a meeting this week.
- 6 The football match **ends / is ending** at 7.00, so we can watch the film afterwards.

### going to

We use *be + going to* to talk about:

- intentions.

**Ben's going to join a gym.**

- predictions about the future based on something we can see in the present.

**Look at the sky. It's going to be a beautiful day.**

Compare:

*going to* **They aren't going to stay very long.**  
(That is their intention.)

*will / won't* **They won't stay very long.** (I predict this.)

Sometimes there is little difference between *going to* and the present continuous when talking about the future.

**We're going to have a party next weekend.**

**We're having a party next weekend.**

We use the present continuous to talk about a definite plan for which the arrangements have been made. And we use *going to* to show that the plan is only an intention.

### may / might

We use *may* or *might* when we are less certain about the future. Although *may* is considered to be more definite than *might*, there is, in fact, very little difference in meaning between the two words.

THE TOUGH HEALTH CRISIS / IS ENDING BY JULY, SO WE can watch the film afterwards.

**2 Rewrite the sentences. Use the present simple or the present continuous form of the verbs in brackets.**

- 1 Jan and Kim have decided to go to Amy's party on Saturday. (go)  
.....
- 2 Sarah has just bought a plane ticket for a flight to Madrid next Tuesday. (fly)  
.....
- 3 The plane's departure time is 0920. (leave)  
.....
- 4 The summer lecture programme is scheduled to begin on 15 June. (start)  
.....
- 5 Matt and Jamie have booked a badminton court for later. (play)  
.....

## will

We use *will* and *won't* to talk about:

- promises and hopes for the future, often with verbs like *hope*, *expect* or *promise* + *that* (you can omit *that*).  
I **hope (that) you'll be very happy here.**  
We can also use the infinitive with *to* after these verbs.  
We **hope to arrange another meeting soon.**
- predictions, often after *I think* or *I don't think*, or future facts that we are certain about.  
I **don't think it will be difficult to pass this exam.**  
That plant **won't survive for long without water.**
- future facts that we are less certain about, with *probably*.  
We **will probably go to the park, but it depends on the weather.**

**3 Complete the sentences with the correct form of will or be going to and one of the verbs below.**

■ start ■ cause ■ not go ■ fall ■ not take ■ make

- 1 I hope this ..... a long time. I'm very busy.
- 2 It is clear that further drought ..... very serious problems in the area.
- 3 Look at that man! He ..... off the roof!
- 4 We ..... to the meeting. We've got too much work to do.
- 5 Clean water ..... probably ..... the biggest difference to the people in the village.
- 6 They ..... a campaign to help promote the message.

**4 Match 1–8 to a–h to make sentences.**

- 1 I've got a cold, so I probably
  - 2 Sarah and I won't be at the picnic, but we
  - 3 It's great news. We're
  - 4 Good luck. I hope I
  - 5 Mike isn't sure, but he thinks
  - 6 The temperature is dropping. It
  - 7 Carla isn't certain, but she
  - 8 They intended to join us on the protest, but they
- a might meet us later  
b aren't going to come now.  
c won't go swimming later.  
d the journey will take about three hours.  
e going to get a dog, at last.  
f may see you at Jack's party.  
g 'll see you again soon.  
h 's going to be very cold tonight.