FCE 10.1

In this lesson, we will review the future tenses—principally, *going to*, future simple (*will*), future continuous and future perfect.

But I want to highlight that there are many ways of talking about the future in English. More than one tense is often possible, with no change of meaning. Before moving on to the exercises, look at this chart with its summary (with examples) of the possible future forms.

Future Tense / Form	Use	Example
future simple tense *shall/will*	future plans	*I'll give you a ring sometime.*
	definite future events	*Our representative will meet you at the airport.*
	predictions based on general beliefs	*Mass space travel will soon become possible.*
	offers or promises relating to the future	*I'll prepare some salads for the party.*
"going to" future	future plans, particularly if they are likely to happen soon	*I'm going to clear out the kitchen cupboards at the weekend.*
	intentions	*James says he's going to work harder.*
	predictions based on facts or events in the present	*It's going to snow tonight.*
present continuous tense	imminent future events	*I'm having a meeting with Charlotte at two o'clock.*
	definite future arrangements	*Johnny's starting school next September.*
present simple	events based on a timetable or known date	*The plane leaves at 09.45.*
	future intentions	*NASA plans to send further rockets to Mars.*
	definite planned events	*The new pool is due to open in April.*
future continuous	to indicate certainty, when we are thinking ahead to a certain point in the future	*Tom will be sharing an office with Fran.*
future perfect simple	to refer to events that have not yet happened but will definitely do so at a given time. This tense also conveys the idea of completion at some point in the future.	*This time next year I'll have finished my course.* *Space tourism will have become a reality by 2030.*
future perfect continuous	to indicate duration.	*At the end of June, Henry will have been working here for sixteen years.*

Now look at sentences a-e and identify the future forms listed 1- 4 below. What other tense is used in sentences f and g to refer to the future?

1) *going to* future **2) future simple** **3) future continuous** **4) future perfect**

a) They will deliver things, bring stuff back to Earth and then go up again.

b) This is only going to happen through free enterprise.

c) In the future, these space vehicles will be orbiting the Earth as efficiently as air freight carriers.

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d) Many people believe that by 2025 space tourism will have become a viable industry.

e) Tumlinson is going to try to prove a point.

f) It plans to launch a manned expedition to an asteroid by 2025.

g) However, this situation is due to change.

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Which of the sentences a-g mention the following? Select all that apply.

1) a prediction about the future

a	b	c	d	e	f	g

2) a planned event that is expected to happen soon

a	b	c	d	e	f	g

3) an event that has not yet happened but will happen within a certain period of time

a	b	c	d	e	f	g

4) an intention to do something

a	b	c	d	e	f	g

How are predictions about the future expressed in these two examples?

a) Private companies may well prove them wrong.

b) There could be a billion-dollar market in taking packages from one side of the planet to the other in an hour.

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Choose the correct option in italics in these sentences.

a) Within the next twenty years, the cost of space travel ***will be falling I will fall*** dramatically.

b) In the near future, it's likely that adventure holidays ***won't be I aren't going to be*** limited to remote places on Earth.

c) People ***will I may*** one day have the opportunity to go to distant planets, but first we need to discover a way of travelling faster than the speed of light.

d) Our 7-day trip is due to depart on 1st December, 2025 and *will* ***carry I will have carried*** you 100 km into space.

e) I've decided I ***am going to book I will book*** a trip into space as soon as I can afford it.

f) The Americans always said they ***would fly I will fly*** to Mars.

g) Sooner or later people ***will live I will be living*** in space.

h) The International Space Station *will* ***have been I will be*** manned for 14 years in November.

Now, let's do a listening activity. You are going to hear three people talking about the future. Decide whether each speaker has a positive or a negative view of what life for human beings might be like.

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Speaker 1 ..... .

Speaker 2 ..... .

Speaker 3 ..... .

Which speaker is closest to your own ideas about the future? Why? Answer orally.

The final activity in this lesson is to review common phrases with *at*. Speaker 2 used the preposition *at* in three different ways:

- *I'm reading one of his sci-Ji ones* ***at the moment****.*
- *They live for* ***at least*** *three hundred years.*
- *There will always be some country* ***at war*** *with another.*

Choose the correct phrase for each of these sentences and explain the meaning of the incorrect options.

1 Hurry up, we'll be locked inside the building unless we leave ..... .

A) at first B) at once C) at last

2 Jordi is looking forward to the move but, ... , I know he'll miss his friends here.

A) at least B) at present C) at the same time

3 For the first time in ten years, this war-torn country is now ..... , thanks to the skills of the negotiators on both sides.

A) at peace B) at war C) at rest

4 Journalists often get scientific facts slightly wrong, but this article is inaccurate reporting

A) at his laziest B) at its worst C) at their best

*Notice, as in the last example, that *at* is commonly used with a pronoun and a superlative.

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