

FUTURE TENSES

1) Drag the example sentences into the chart below to learn how future tenses are used.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I will love you forever. 2. I'm going to see the new film. 3. You will meet your love today. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. I'll help you with your bags.
Shall I carry your bag? 5. I'll have the chicken. 6. We are getting married on 6th July at 6.00. 7. It's going to rain |
|---|---|

will	Be going to	Present continuous
Promises 	Plan or intention 	Arrangement 
Prediction 	Prediction based on evidence 	
Spontaneous decisions 		
Offers and suggestions 		

If you are still not sure how to use different future constructions, you can read the rules below.

5A Future forms

2.5 Decisions, plans and arrangements

We use **will** to make a spontaneous decision (= a decision while we are speaking):

OK, I'll come for a run with you.

We use **going to** to talk about future plans (= decisions we made earlier):

We're not going to stay at that hotel again.

We use the present continuous to talk about arrangements (= fixed plans, usually involving other people and specific times and places):

She's travelling to Central America on Sunday.

There is not a big difference in meaning between **going to** and the present continuous to talk about future plans / arrangements. Often both are possible:

I'm visiting / going to visit my sister this weekend.

2.6 Offers, promises and suggestions

We use **will** to make offers and promises:

I'll help you, if you like.

I'll always be here when you need me.

We use **shall + I** in questions to make offers and suggestions:

A *Shall I carry that for you?*

B *Oh, yes, please.*

A *Shall we go swimming on Saturday?*

B *That's a good idea.*

2.7 Predictions

We use **will** to make predictions based on our opinions:

I'm sure you'll learn a lot when you go travelling.

Don't put that there! It'll fall off.

We use **going to** to make predictions based on concrete facts (= things that we can see or information that we have read, etc.):

We should leave soon. The roads are going to be busy.

It's not going to rain. There isn't a cloud in the sky.



Tip

In negative sentences, say *I don't think + will*.

I don't think the forest will recover. NOT ~~*I think the forest won't recover.*~~



Underline the best option in each sentence.

1. **A** It's a bit hot in here.
B Yes ... I'll/ I'm going to open a window.
- 2 I'm going to the shop. Will / Shall I get you anything?
- 3 **A** Why are you carrying those flowers?
B Because I'll/ I'm going to ask Sara to marry me!
- 4 **A** I'm so tired.
B I'll /I shall make you a coffee, if you want.
- 5 I've got a bad stomach. I think I'll/ I'm going to be ill.

Complete the sentences with **will**, **shall** or **going to** and the words in brackets.

1 _____ (I carry) your bag down the stairs?

2 What time _____ (we / meet)?

3 _____ (you / cook) me a nice meal tonight?

4 I _____ (go) to bed when this programme is finished - I'm tired.

5 I _____ (come) back one day - I promise.

6 I _____ (have) a steak - no, I _____ (have) fish, please.

7 According to the website, she _____ (talk) about some of her trips. .

8 I think you _____ (like) my chocolate cake a lot.

Complete the telephone conversation using the verbs in brackets with **will / shall**, **going to** or **the present continuous**. Sometimes there is more than one possible answer.

A Hi Dan, it's Tony. Listen, I _____ (come) to Bristol for a couple of days next week for a big meeting with a client. I _____ (try) to see some of my old friends while I'm there. Do you want to meet up one evening?

B Sounds good. It _____ (be) good to see you again after all these years.

A Yeah, I know, _____ (we / say) Tuesday evening?

B Er... no, that's no good for me. I _____ (take) the kids to the cinema on Tuesday. We've already got tickets.

A OK, no problem. What about Wednesday?

B Yes, that's fine. What time _____ (you / be) free, do you think?

A The meeting _____ (probably / finish) at about 5 o'clock - that's what the client said, anyway.

B OK, so around 7 then? _____ (I / pick) you up at your hotel? Where _____ (you / stay)?

A _____ (I / be) at the King's Hotel. I reserved a room last week.

B Perfect. listen, I _____ (phone) you before I leave, at about 6.30, to check you're ready.

A Don't worry I _____ (be) ready.