

THE FUTURE

FUTURE: FUTURE SIMPLE: WILL+ INFINITIVE VERB

- Spontaneous decision
I'm tired. I think I'll **go** to bed.
- Prediction based on what you think or imagine.
I want to play tennis tomorrow but it'll probably **rain**.
- Information about the future
Jack **will be** 17 in March.
- As part of a conditional sentence
If you study you'll **pass** your exams.
- A promise to do something
I **won't tell** anyone what happened. I promise
- An offer to do something
That bag looks heavy. I'll **help** you with it.
- A suggestion
Shall we **try** to finish the project today?

Note: "Shall" mostly in questions to ask for somebody's opinion in offers and suggestions. It's only used with first person (I, We)

FUTURE: BE GOING TO + INFINITIVE VERB

- Plans or intentions
I need to buy some flour. I'm **going to** make a pizza tonight.
- Predictions based on what you know or can see.
Look at those clouds! It's **going to** rain.

FUTURE: PRESENT CONTINUOUS

- Arrangements or decisions that have already been made
We're **meeting** outside the cinema at 7:30.

FUTURE: PRESENT SIMPLE

- When we talk about timetables, programmes etc.
It's Wednesday tomorrow. The train **leaves** Plymouth at 11.30 and **arrives** in London at 14.45.

EXERCISES:

1 Complete the sentences. Use the correct form of be going to or will.

1. I can't play tennis tomorrow. I _____ visit my grandparents.
2. 'I'm hungry'
'OK. I _____ make a sandwich, then.'
3. 'Which T-shirt do you want?' 'I _____ have the blue one, please'.
4. It's my birthday next week. I _____ have a party.
5. I _____ be home before midnight, I promise.
6. My parents _____ buy a new car this weekend.

2 What is the difference between going to and will to express future intention? Match the sentences to A or B.

A spontaneous decision

B planned action

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1 I'm not going to lend it to you any more. | _____ |
| 2 I'll meet you at eight. | _____ |
| 3 I'm going to study harder. | _____ |
| 4 I'll never do that again! | _____ |

3 Choose the correct form of the verb in the sentences.

1. A: Why are you buying a tennis racket?
B: I'm going to start / I'll start tennis lessons.
2. A: Let's go to the cinema tonight.
B: Well, I think I have to baby-sit, but I'm not sure. I'll ring / I'm going to ring and tell you later.

3. A: What are you going to do with all that paint?

B: Paint my bedroom.

A: I'll help / I'm going to help.

4. A: You look very tired. What's wrong?

B: It's my bag. It's very heavy.

A: I'll carry / I'm going to carry it for you.

5. A: You look very happy.

B: Yes. It's my birthday on Saturday. My parents will buy / are going to buy me a computer.

4 Choose the most appropriate forms of the future.

1 A What are you doing / will you do this weekend?

B I'm going / going to go to a concert in London. Do you fancy coming?

A Maybe - I'm going to / 'll let you know.

2 A Kate's seventeen today.

B Will she / Is she going to learn to drive?

A Yes, she'll have / 's having her first driving lesson tomorrow.

B I hope she'll pass / 's passing the test first time.

3 A I haven't received that report yet.

B OK, I'll / 'm going to fax you a copy.

A Thanks. I'll give / 'm giving you a call when I've read it.

B Fine, but I'll have / 'm having lunch out so I won't be / 'm not being back till two.

A That's OK. I won't finish / 'm not finishing it before then.