

Future forms

FUTURE

Present Continuous (for future arrangements)

future arrangements

Lorna and Jamie **are getting** married in October.
We're **meeting** at 10.00 tomorrow in Richard's office.
Jane's **leaving** on Friday and **coming back** next Tuesday.

- We often use the present continuous for future arrangements.
- There is very little difference between the present continuous and be going to for future plans / arrangements and often you can use either.
 - be going to shows that you have made a decision.
We're **going to get married** next year.
 - the present continuous emphasizes that you have made the arrangements.
We're **getting married** on October 12th. (= we've booked the church)
- We often use the present continuous with verbs relating to travel arrangements, e.g. go, come, arrive, leave, etc.
He's **arriving** tomorrow and **leaving** on Thursday.

Future Simple (will / won't)

instant decisions, promises, offers, predictions, future facts, suggestions

- 1 I'll **have** the steak. (instant decision)
I **won't tell** anybody where you are. (promise)
I'll **carry** that bag for you. (offer)
You'll **love** New York! (prediction)
Next year Christmas Day **will be** on a Thursday. (future fact)
- 2 **Shall** I help you with your homework? (offer)
Shall we eat out tonight? (suggestion)

- 1 We use **will / won't** (NOT the present simple) for instant decisions, promises, and offers. **NOT** I carry that bag for you.
- We can also use **will / won't** for predictions, e.g. I think Barcelona **will win**, and to talk about future facts, e.g. The election **will be** on 1st March.
- 2 We use **shall** (NOT **will**) with I and we for offers and suggestions when they are questions.

Be going to (+ infinitive)

future plans and intentions

My sister's **going to adopt** a child.
Are you going to buy a new car or a second-hand one?
I'm **not going to go** home for the holidays. It's too far.

predictions

Barcelona **are going to win**. They're playing really well.
Look at those black clouds. I think it's **going to rain**.

- We use **be going to** (NOT **will / won't**) when we have already decided to do something. **NOT** My sister **will adopt** a child.
- We also use **be going to** to make a prediction about the future, especially when we have some evidence (e.g. we can see black clouds).

● Circle the best answer. Sometimes two answers are possible.

- 1 A _____?
B Tomorrow. My flight is in the morning.
a When will you leave
☒ b When are you leaving
☐ c When are you going to leave
- 2 A You must bring the money tomorrow.
B Don't worry, _____.
a I'm not forgetting
b I'm not going to forget
c I won't forget
- 3 A Do you have any plans for tonight?
B Yes, _____.
a I'll meet some friends
b I'm going to meet some friends
c I'm meeting some friends
- 4 A The interviews for the new manager were yesterday.
B I think _____.
a Bob is getting the job
b Bob is going to get the job
c Bob will get the job
- 5 A This suitcase is too heavy for me.
B _____.
a I'll carry it for you
b I'm carrying it for you
c I'm going to carry it for you
- 6 A What would you like to drink?
B _____.
a I'll have a cappuccino, please
b I'm going to have a cappuccino, please
c I'm having a cappuccino, please

7 A Here's my email address.

- B Thanks. _____ tomorrow.
a I'm going to send you the photos
b I'm sending you the photos
c I'll send you the photos

8 A _____ this weekend?

- B No, I have to work on Saturday.
a Are you going to go away
b Will you go away
c Are you going away

9 A England are playing Brazil tomorrow.

- B I'm sure _____.
a they'll lose
b they're losing
c they're going to lose

10 A My train arrives at 2.15.

- B OK, _____ by the information desk.
a I'll meet you
b I'm going to meet you
c I'm meeting you

11 A What time does the film start?

- B I don't know. _____ phone the cinema and check?
a Will I
b Am I going to
c Shall I

12 A Do I need to bring an umbrella?

- B No, I don't think _____.
a it rains
b it'll rain
c it's going to rain