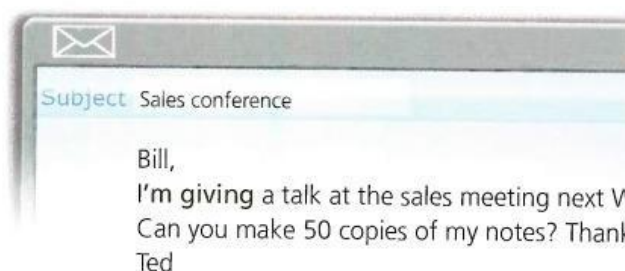


59 Future with present continuous and present simple



SALES MEETING – Wednesday 26 Jan
09.30 Ted Conti – Opportunities in China and the Far East
11.00 Coffee

1 Present continuous

We use the present continuous to talk about things that we have already arranged to do:

I'm giving a talk at the sales meeting next Wednesday.
David sent me a text message. He's meeting us at six o'clock.
'What are you doing this weekend?' 'I'm going to the theatre.'

We usually give the time/period or date:

I'm seeing the dentist at half-past eleven on Thursday.

NATURAL ENGLISH We often use the present continuous to give the reason why we can't do something in the future:

'Can you come to lunch on Sunday?'
'I'm afraid I can't come. I'm working on Sunday.'

January

26 WEDNESDAY

talk at sales meeting

27 THURSDAY

11.30 dentist

28 FRIDAY

29 SATURDAY

theatre

30 SUNDAY

working

2 Present simple

We can use the present simple with a time or date to talk about future events that are on a timetable or programme:

The train leaves London at 10.25 and arrives in Bristol at 11.50. It stops in Swindon at 11.15.

'When do your classes finish?'
'They finish on December the 5th.'

London	Swindon	Bristol
10.25	11.15	11.50
11.50	12.35	13.05



We don't use the present simple for things we have arranged to do; we use the present continuous or *going to*:

~~X We meet our friends this evening.~~ ✓ *We're meeting our friends this evening.*

3 after, when, as soon as, etc.

We use the present simple not *will* to talk about the future after *when*, *as soon as*, *before*, *after* and *until*:



~~X As soon as I will get there I'll phone you.~~ ✓ *As soon as I get there, I'll phone you.*
~~X I'll see you when I'll arrive.~~ ✓ *I'll see you when I arrive.*

Practice

1 GRAMMAR IN USE Look at Lucy's business diary for next week.

Complete the conversation with the present continuous of the verbs in brackets ().
Then write the missing information, A–C in Lucy's diary.

JAN Hi, Lucy. Can we arrange a meeting for next week?

LUCY Of course. How about Tuesday morning?

I (0) *'m not doing*. (not do) anything then.

JAN That's no good for me, I'm afraid.

Are you free in the afternoon?

LUCY No. We (1) (have) a special sales meeting then.

JAN Well, I'm free on Thursday morning.

LUCY Sorry, I (2) (go) to the dentist then.

How about Thursday afternoon?

JAN No, our office manager (3) (give) a talk. (4) (you do) anything on Friday?

LUCY I'm afraid I'm busy. I (5) (fly) to Stockholm to meet some clients. Look, I (6) (not work) on Monday. But I can come into the office if it's important.

JAN Yes, it's quite important. The accounts manager (7) (come) to see me in the morning but I (8) (not do) anything in the afternoon.

LUCY OK. Let's meet on Monday afternoon then.

23 MONDAY	am	<i>one-day holiday</i>
	pm	<i>A</i>
24 TUESDAY	am	
	pm	<i>B</i>
25 WEDNESDAY	am	<i>visit new factory</i>
	pm	
26 THURSDAY	am	<i>C</i>
	pm	
27 FRIDAY	am	<i>trip to Sweden</i>
	pm	

2 Read the information about Lucy's trip to Sweden on Friday. Complete the questions and answers. Use only one word or a short form in each space.

08.30	departure flight SA109 from London Heathrow, Terminal 4
11.40	arrival flight SA109 in Stockholm
12.00	start of meeting at Svenska Hotel
15.00	give talk to clients

1 When *does* Lucy's flight leave? It at half past

2 the flight go from Terminal one? No, it

3 does it in Stockholm? It at 11.40.

4 Is Lucy at the Hilton Hotel? No, she

5 What Lucy doing at three o'clock? She is a talk.

3 Find four more mistakes in the sentences and correct them. Tick (✓) the correct sentence.

0 After the film *finishes* ~~will finish~~, we'll go for a snack.

1 Jane can't come to the meeting because she goes on holiday tomorrow.

2 The timetable says that the train arrives in Edinburgh at 10.30.

3 We meet some friends at a restaurant this evening. Would you like to come, too?

4 I'll send you a text message when we'll arrive at the hotel.

5 We stay in a beach house in Greece next summer.