

2 The future

2.5 Future in the past

A number of forms can be used to talk about a past activity or event that was still in the future from the point of view of the speaker:

I was going to see an aunt in Seattle a couple of years ago, but I cancelled the trip because she got ill. (= a plan that didn't happen)

I knew I would be feeling awful by the end of the flight. (= a prediction made in the past)

Grammar exercises

3.1 Complete the sentences using the verbs in the box. Choose the most appropriate form.

miss / will miss
persuades / will persuade
will rise / are to rise

will have / am having
will be enjoying / enjoys
see / are going to see

is going to melt / is melting
~~am starting out / will start out~~

- 1 A: Do you want to come out for a meal tonight?
B: I 'm starting out early tomorrow morning – my flight's at six – so I don't think I'll come, thanks.
- 2 I _____ some friends over for dinner on Saturday. Do you want to join us?
- 3 They reckon the Greenland ice sheet _____ within a few years.
- 4 A: Yoshi doesn't want to come on holiday with us, then.
B: He says that now, but I'm sure Hannah _____ him to change his mind.
- 5 By the middle of the week, temperatures _____ to 30°C.
- 6 I'm not sure when I'll be home tonight. Expect me when you _____ me.
- 7 A: The coach leaves Kiev at exactly 5.00 from the bus station.
B: What if I _____ it?
A: You'll have to take the train.
- 8 A: It's Lucia's first week away at university. I wonder how she's getting on?
B: I'm sure she _____ herself.

3.2 Choose the correct future form.

- 1 You'll freeze if you'll go / go out dressed like that. Put on a warm coat!
- 2 When I retire next year, I'm doing / going to do a lot of travelling around South America.
- 3 Look at that stupid cyclist! He's going to cause / causes an accident.
- 4 A: What do you want done with this box?
B: If you just leave it there, I'll take / 'm taking it upstairs when I go.
- 5 A: What are you doing / do you do this evening?
B: Oh, I don't know. Maybe I'll Skype / 'm Skyping Lydia.
- 6 Please note that next week's concert is commencing / will commence at 7.00, not 7.30 as advertised in the programme.

- 7 A: Adele *will do / is doing* a concert in Milan next month.
B: *Will / Shall* I book some tickets?
- 8 When Stefan *is / will be* 50, Sofia *is to be / will be* 18.