



The Future

WILL

Will (**will** + base form of a verb) is used to talk about something in the future. The negative is *will not* or *won't*.

(We can use *will* or *shall** with *I* or *we* with no difference in meaning.

- **Shall I help** you carry that?

- **We shall find** out tomorrow whether the money has arrived.

*Shall is uncommon in American English.)

Will is used to describe a future fact. It is something we can't change or control.

*In Queensland the weather **will be** hot and humid tomorrow.*

*She **will be** late because she has missed her train.*

*In the future solar power **will replace** gas as a source of energy.*

Will is used when we suddenly decide to do something.

*Is John home from college? **I'll go** round and see him tonight.*

Will is used with 'think', 'expect', and 'probably'.

*I expect the weather **will be wet** tomorrow.*

***I'll probably see** you at the party.*

*I think **I'll phone** him again tonight.*

Will is used for offers and promises.

*Please stay and play with me! **I'll be** very good and **I won't cry** if I lose!*

*No, sorry, I can't. **I'll play** with you soon.*

Exercise - Fill the gaps in the sentences below with one of the verbs in the list using '**will**' + base form.

bring, change, phone, catch, meet, be

Andrea: Hi Jane, it's Andrea. I'm sorry but my car has broken down so I can't pick you up.

Jane: Don't worry. We (a)_____ the bus.

Andrea: O.K. I (b)_____ for a taxi and meet you there.

Jane: Where (c)_____ we _____ you?

Andrea: What about outside the bus station? And we (d)_____ the time to 11, not 10 am.

Jane: The weather forecaster says the weather (e)_____ wet.

Andrea: Really? O.K. I (f)_____ my umbrella.

Answers:

a. we'll catch, b. I'll phone, c. will we meet, d. we'll change, e. will be, f. I'll bring

GOING TO

Be going to + base form is used when we have decided to do something in the future.

I'm going to do something = I have decided to do this.

***I'm going to organize** a farewell party for Mikiko.*

***I'm going to invite** all her friends.*

*Yuri says he's **going to make** some special dishes.*

Going to is used when we say something will happen, because something in the present shows us it will.

*Stop being so silly! You're **going to break** that glass!*

*Oh no! It's 11 o'clock. We're **going to miss** the bus.*

*I haven't done my homework. My teachers **are going to be** angry with me.*



Present Simple

We use this to describe events that are part of timetables.

My train leaves at ten.

I arrive in New York at 21.00 hours.

Present Continuous

We use this for future arrangements--something that we have arranged to do that will happen soon.

What are you doing tomorrow?

I'm having lunch at Antoine's with Craig. I'm meeting him at the restaurant. (Craig and I have already arranged this.)

Be going to and the **present continuous** are very similar in many cases.

Future Continuous

The **future continuous** (**will + be + active participle**) describes an action we think will be in progress in the future at a particular moment.

I'm looking forward to my vacation. At 3 pm tomorrow I'll be landing in Florida.

At 5 pm I'll be having dinner with Lesley sitting by her pool.

It also describes a future action that we have planned.

I'll be phoning Lesley this evening because she asked me to. Shall I ask her about airport shuttles?*

I'll be taking two suitcases with me. I've got loads of clothes I want to wear while I'm there!

* If we use **will**, it suggests that we decided this suddenly: *I'll phone Lesley this evening.* (i.e. I have just decided this.)

Sometimes we use the future continuous if we want something from someone.

Will you be needing the car tonight?

No, I'll be too busy packing.

Future Perfect

The **Future Perfect** (**will have + past participle**) expresses an action that will be completed before a time in the future. It is not used very often.

By 2020 I will have retired from my job.

By the end of this month, I will have finished my exams. Yahoo!

Exercise - Will or Going To?

Choose the best answer for each of the gaps in the dialogue below. Three friends are having a meal together.

Andrew: Oh no! There's only one slice of pizza left and I'm still hungry.

1. *We're going to / We'll* run out.

Sue: 2. *I'm going to / I'll* phone for some more, if you like.

Andrew: Yes please!

Kate: Andrew! The pizza!

Andrew: I know. It's o.k. Sue 3. *is going to / will* phone for some more.

Kate: Is she? Good.

Sue: Oh! I haven't got enough money to pay for it. I know! 4. *I'm going to / I'll* use Andrew's credit card.

Kate: Good idea!

Sue: Where's the phone?

Kate: Here somewhere...on the floor. 5. *I'm going to / I'll* lift up these empty boxes.

Sue: 6. *I'm going to / I'll* help you look. Oh here it is.

Andrew: Hey girls, what about money?

Sue: Don't worry, 7. *we're going to / we'll* use your credit card!

Andrew: What!

Kate: Yup, it's party time!

Exercise - Future Continuous

Christine is going to the mall tomorrow. A boy called Kevin wants to meet her at the mall. Christine doesn't like him very much and she is telling him why she can't meet him.

Put each verb in the brackets into the future continuous in the gaps below.

Kevin: Can I see you tomorrow?

Christine: No, sorry. I'm going to the mall and I've got lots to do.

Kevin: Well, could I meet you at the mall at 11?

Christine: No, I 1. _____ (get) my hair cut then.

Kevin: What about midday?

Christine: No, I 2. _____ (have) a manicure.

Kevin: Well, shall I phone you at 1 to see if you want to meet?

Christine: No, sorry you can't. I 3. _____ (have) lunch with my mother at 1, and she hates interruptions.

Kevin: What time 4. _____ you _____ (go) home?

Christine: I don't know. Sorry. But I can't see you. I'm too busy.

Exercise Will or Going To Answers

1. we're going to, 2. I'll, 3. is going to, 4. I'll, 5. I'll, 6. I'll, 7. we're going to.

Exercise Future Continuous Answers

1. I'll be getting, 2. I'll be having, 3. I'll be having, 4. will you be going

