

Simple Future Tense

I- The simple future:

Some languages have no future tense and rely on different means such as time expressions (e.g. tomorrow) to express future events. Other languages have specific inflectional endings attached to the verbs to express time future tense. English is a language that relies on a variety of structures to express future time. Simple Future has two different forms in English: "will" and "be going to." Although the two forms can sometimes be used interchangeably, they often express two very different meanings. Both "will" and "be going to" refer to a specific time in the future. Also, the present continuous and the present simple can be used to talk about future events.



I-1- Verb form: will/shall+ infinitive

e.g: My father **will be** fifty years old tomorrow.

He is a good manager. He **will not make** any mistakes.

Will they **win** the game?

I-2- Present continuous for the future:

Present continuous with a future meaning

Study this example situation:

This is Tom's schedule for next week.

He **is playing** tennis on Monday afternoon.
He **is going** to the dentist on Tuesday morning.
He **is having** dinner with Ann on Friday.

In all these examples, Tom has already decided and arranged to do these things.

It is also possible to use **going to (do)** in these sentences:

- What **are you going to do** tomorrow evening?
- Tom **is going to play** tennis on Monday afternoon.

But the present continuous is usually more natural when you are talking about **arrangements**.

I-3- Simple present for the future

Simple present with a future meaning

We use the simple present when we are talking about timetables, schedules, etc. (for example, public transportation, movies):

- What time **does** the movie **begin**?
- The train **leaves** Boston at 7:25 a.m. and **arrives** in Washington, D.C., at 3:41 p.m.
- The football game **starts** at 2:00.
- Tomorrow **is** Wednesday.

But we do not usually use the simple present for personal arrangements:

- What time **are** you **meeting** Ann? (*not* do you meet)

Also, in time clause we can use the Present Simple to talk about an event in the future. Look at this example: When the programme *ends*, I'll do the washing- up. After *when*, *before*, *after*, *until* and *as soon as* we use the Present Simple with a future meaning.

Activities:

1 A friend of yours is planning to go on vacation very soon. You ask him about his plans. Use the words in parentheses (. . .) to make your questions.

Example: (where / go)? *Where are you going?*

1. (how long / stay?)
2. (when / leave?)
3. (go / alone?)
4. (go / by car?)
5. (where / stay?)

Put the verb into the most appropriate form: *present continuous* (**I am doing**) or *simple present* (**I do**).

Example: We ...*are going* (go) to the theater this evening.

Does the movie begin. (the movie / begin) at 3:30 or 4:30?

1. We (have) a party next Saturday. Would you like to come?
2. I (not/go) away for my vacation next month because I don't have enough money. (you/go) away?
3. The concert this evening (start) at 8:00.
4. George, is it true that you (get) married next week?
5. The art exhibit (open) on May 3rd and (close) on July 15th.
6. What time (the next train / leave)?
7. Ann, we (go) to the park. (you/come) with us?

2 Ann is going on vacation. Write sentences about her vacation plans. Use the words in parentheses to write your sentences.

Example: (go / Hawaii) *She is going to Hawaii*

1. (leave / next Friday) She
2. (stay / in Hawaii for two weeks)
3. (go / with a friend of hers)
4. (stay / in a hotel) They
5. (go / by plane)

I-4- The will/shall ('ll) uses:

a We use **will** ('ll) when we decide to do something at the time of speaking:

- Oh, I left the door open. I'll go and shut it.
- "What would you like to drink?" "I'll have some coffee, please."
- "Did you call Ann?" "Oh no, I forgot. I'll do it now."
- I'm too tired to walk home. I think I'll take a taxi.

You cannot use the simple present (**I do**) in these sentences.

- I'll go and shut it. (*not* I go and shut it)

Do not use **will** to say what someone has already decided to do or arranged to do:

- I can't meet you tomorrow because my parents are coming to see me. (*not* my parents will come)

The negative of **will** is **won't** (or **will not**):

- Receptionist: I'm afraid Mr. Wood can't see you until 4:00.
- You: Oh, in that case I **won't** wait.

We often use **I think I'll . . .** or **I don't think I'll . . .** when we decide to do something:

- I **think I'll stay** home this evening.
- I **don't think I'll go** out tonight. I'm too tired.

b We often use **will** in these situations:

Offering to do something:

- That bag looks heavy. I'll **help** you with it. (*not* I help)
- "I need some money." "Don't worry. I'll **lend** you some."

Agreeing or *refusing* to do something:

- A: You know that book I lent you? Can I have it back?
- B: Of course. I'll **bring** it back this afternoon. (*not* I bring)
- I've asked John to help me, but he **won't**.
- The car **won't** start. (=the car "refuses" to start)

Promising to do something:

- Thank you for lending me the money. I'll **pay** you back on Friday. (*not* I pay)
- I **won't tell** Tom what you said. I promise.
- I promise I'll **call** you as soon as I arrive.

Asking someone to do something (**Will you . . . ?**):

- **Will you shut** the door, please?
- **Will you please be** quiet? I'm trying to concentrate.

C when we talk about the future, we often say what someone has arranged to do or intends to do. Do not use **will** in this situation:

- **Tom is playing** tennis on Monday. (*not* Tom will play)
- **Are you going to** watch television this evening? (*not* will you watch?)

But often when we are talking about the future, we are not talking about arrangements or intentions. Study this example:

Tom: I'm really worried about my exam next week.
Ann: Don't worry, Tom. You'll pass.

“You'll pass” is not an arrangement or an intention. Ann is just saying what will happen or what she thinks will happen; she is predicting the future. When we predict a future happening or a future situation, we use **will/won't**.

- When you return home, you'll notice a lot of changes.
- This time next year I'll be in Japan. Where will you be?
- When will you find out your exam results?
- Tom won't pass his exam. He hasn't done any work for it.

We often use **will** with these words and expressions:

probably	I'll probably be a little late this evening.
(I'm) sure	You must meet Ann. I'm sure you'll like her.
(I) bet	I bet Carol will get the job.
(I) think	Do you think we'll win the match?
(I) suppose	I suppose we'll see John at the party.
(I) guess	I guess I'll see you next week.

D- Will or going to?

a Talking about future actions

We use both **will** and **going to** to talk about our future actions, but there is a clear difference. Study this example situation:

Helen's bicycle has a flat tire. She tells her father.
Helen: My bicycle has a flat tire.
Can you fix it for me?
Father: Okay, but I can't do it now.
I'll fix it tomorrow.

will: We use **will** when we decide to do something at the time of speaking. The speaker has not decided before. Before Helen told her father, he didn't know about the flat tire.

Later, Helen's mother speaks to her husband.
Mother: Can you fix Helen's bicycle?
It has a flat tire.
Father: Yes, I know. She told me.
I'm going to fix it tomorrow.

going to: We use **going to** when we have already decided to do something. Helen's father had already decided to fix the bicycle before his wife spoke to him.

Here is another example:

- *Tom is cooking when he suddenly discovers that there isn't any salt:*
Tom: Ann, we don't have any salt.
Ann: Oh, we don't? I'll get some from the store. (*she decides at the time of speaking*)

Before going out, Ann says to Jim:
Ann: I'm going to get some salt from the store. (*she has already decided*)
Can I get you anything, Jim?

b

Saying what will happen (predicting future happenings)

We use both **will** and **going to** to say what we think will happen in the future:

- Do you think Laura **will** get the job?
- Oh no! It's already 4:00. We're **going to** be late.

We use **going to** (not **will**) when there is something in the present situation that shows what will happen in the future (especially the near future). The speaker feels sure about what will

Happen because of the situation now.

- Look at those black clouds. It's **going to rain**. (the clouds are there *now*)
- I feel terrible. I think I'm **going to** be sick. (I feel terrible *now*)

Do not use **will** in situations like these.

In other situations, use will:

- Sue **will** probably **arrive** at about 8 o'clock.
- I think George **will** like the present you bought for him.

Activities:

1 *Complete the sentences with I'll + an appropriate verb.*

Example: I'm too tired to walk home. I think I'll take..... a taxi.

1. I'm a little hungry. I think something to eat.
2. It's too late to call Tom now. him in the morning.
3. "It's a bit cold in this room." "Is it? on the heat then."
4. "We don't have any milk." "Oh, we don't? and get some."
5. "Did you write that letter to Jack?" "Oh, I forgot. Thanks for reminding me. it tonight."
6. "Would you like tea or coffee?" "..... coffee, please."

2 *Use I think I'll ... or I don't think I'll Read the situation and then write your sentence.*

Examples: It's cold. You decide to close the window. I think I'll close the window...
It's raining. You decide not to go out. I don't think I'll go out.....

1. You feel tired. You decide to go to bed. I
2. A friend of yours offers you a ride home, but you decide to walk.
Thank you, but
3. You arranged to play tennis. Now you decide that you don't want to play.
.....
4. You were going to go swimming. Now you decide that you don't want to go.
.....

3 *Offer to do things. Tom has a lot of things to do and you offer to do them for him.*

Example: Tom: Oh, I have to clean up. You: No, that's all right. I'll clean up....

1. Tom: Oh, I have to get dinner ready. You: No, that's all right. I
2. Tom: Oh, I have to do the shopping. You: No,
3. Tom: Oh, I have to water the plants. You: