

Talking about the future

When we **know about the future**, we normally use the **Present Tense**.

1. We use the **Present Simple** for something **scheduled**:

*We **have** a lesson next Monday.*

*The train **arrives** at 6.30 in the morning.*

*The holidays **start** next week.*

It's my birthday tomorrow.

2. We can use the **Present Continuous** for **plans or arrangements**:

*I'm **playing** football tomorrow.*

*They **are coming** to see us tomorrow.*

*We're **having** a party at Christmas.*

3. We use Future Simple (**will**):

① to talk about the **future**

We can often use “will” + infinitive without “to” to refer to future events. This is often called the “pure” future:

“**I’ll be** back later tonight – don’t bother making me dinner.”

“I’m busy right now – **I’ll call** you tomorrow.”

② to make **predictions**

We also use “will” to talk about what we think will happen in the future.

“I think **it’ll rain** tonight.”

“I’m sure **he’ll be** a successful lawyer one day.”

Note: for “negative” predictions, make the “think” negative, not the “will”:

“I **don’t think it’ll rain** tonight” (Not “I think it won’t rain tonight.”)

③ to make **decisions**

When we make decisions at the same time as we speak, we use “will”.

For example, in a restaurant:

Waiter: “What would you like to eat?”

Customer: “**I think I’ll have** the chicken.”



Other examples:

“I’m cold. I think **I’ll put** the heater on.”

“Look, that’s my bus. **I’ll catch up** with you later.”

④ when we express **beliefs** about the future:

*It **will be** a nice day tomorrow.*

*I think Brazil **will win** the World Cup.*

*I’m sure you **will enjoy** the film.*

⑤ to **make offers and promises** :

*I’**ll** see you tomorrow.*

*We’**ll send** you an email.*

⑥ to **talk about offers and promises**:

*Tim **will be** at the meeting.*

*Mary **will help** with the cooking.*

Remember!

We can use ‘**will**’ or ‘**ll**’ to talk about the future and make future predictions. For the negative, we can say ‘**will not**’ or ‘**won’t**’.

*I’**ll** live in a big house when I’m older.*

*She **will** have lots of pets.*

*Children **won’t** go to school in the future.*

*We **will not** drive normal cars.*

Practice

Exercise 1 Complete the conversation with the verbs in the box in the Present Simple or Present Continuous. Some verbs are used twice.

take - start - leave - go - do - depart - get - come

The Big Day

A Have you heard of Brad and Mimi?

B Brad and Mimi? What's happened?

A They married on Saturday.

B You're joking. I didn't know that Mimi fancied Brad. When the wedding place?

A It place on Saturday. Didn't you listen to me?

B Of course I did. But what time it



A The wedding ceremony at 11 o'clock in the All Saints church.

B you

A Yes, I'm. They've invited me.

B Do you think I could join you?

A Why not? I'm sure the church is going to be full. But I early in the morning, because my dad to work by car on Saturday and he can take me to the All Saints.

B If your dad doesn't mind...

A No problem. The more, the merrier, he always says. By the way, you anything tomorrow morning? We could buy some present for them.

B Good idea. We can get the bus to the Macy's Shopping Gallery. It at 9.35.

A All right. See you at the bus stop. Bye.

B Bye-bye.

Exercise 2 *The Present Simple or the Present Continuous? Choose the correct form.*

Tomorrow the sun *rises* | *is rising* at 6.44 and it *sets* | *is setting* at 18.33.

I *don't do* anything | *am not doing* anything tonight. I want to relax.

What time *do you meet* | *are you meeting* John on Sunday?

This year the school *ends* | *is ending* on 28 June.

After the reconstruction the supermarket *opens* | *is opening* on Monday again.

I can't help you. I *see* | *am seeing* the doctor this afternoon.

We've already booked our holiday. We *go* | *are going* to Rome in May.

Could you meet us at the airport tomorrow morning? The plane *lands* | *is landing* at 10.15.

The piano concert *doesn't start* | *is not starting* at 8 o'clock. It is cancelled.

Do you have | *Are you having* your birthday party this week or next week? I forgot.

Exercise 2 Choose between *Future Simple*, *be going to*, *Present Simple* or *Present Continuous*.

I. Joseph, where are you? The plane _____ at 8.30!

a. is going to land

c. is landing

b. lands

d. will land

II. Don't talk again like that or I swear I _____ you!

a. am going to hit

c. am hitting

b. will hit

d. hit

III. So what are you doing this weekend?



- I _____ of going out with Ryan. What about you?
- a. am thinking
 - b. am going to think
 - c. will think
 - d. think
- IV. What are you going to do tomorrow evening?
- Tomorrow evening, I _____ my dentist. My gums are killing me!
- a. will see
 - b. am going to see
 - c. am seeing
 - d. see
- V. I feel exhausted. I _____ a nap.
- a. am going to take
 - b. take
 - c. am taking
 - d. will take
- VI. Look at all these papers we need to sign! We _____ a long night!
- a. will have
 - b. are having
 - c. have
 - d. are going to have
- VII. My English teacher expects I _____ choose linguistics over literature.
- a. am choosing
 - b. choose
 - c. am going to choose
 - d. will choose
- VIII. Where is Monica?
- Oh, she _____ late again! She's stuck at work!
- a. is probably
 - b. will probably be
 - c. is probably going to be
 - d. is probably being
- IX. Now she's rich so she _____ to buy a Lamborghini.
- a. buys
 - b. will buy
 - c. is buying
 - d. is going to buy
- X. Come on, girl! We _____ the class meeting in a little while!
- a. have
 - b. are having
 - c. are going to have
 - d. will have

