

Other ways of talking about the future

A

- be about to + infinitive
- be on the verge of ... / brink of ... / point of ... (+ -ing) or NOUN
 - *People **are on the verge of** starvation as the drought continues.*
- be due to (+ infinitive)
- be sure / bound to (+ infinitive)
 - *The company's chief executive **is due to** retire next year, but following today's announcement of further losses she **is sure to** be asked to leave sooner.*
- be set to (+ infinitive)
 - *Her new film **is set to** be a great success.*

B

- some verbs + to-infinitive
 - *We **guarantee to refund** your money if you are dissatisfied with the computer.*
- present simple + to-infinitive or present continuous + to-infinitive
 - *I **aim to get** to Bangkok by the end of June.*
 - *I ***'m aiming to get* to** Bangkok by the end of June.*

(aim, agree, expect, hope, intend, mean, plan, promise, propose, resolve, undertake, want)

- be looking + to-infinitive
 - *We ***'re looking to create* 3,000 jobs** in the city over the nex year.*

C

- verbs in A and B are used with past tense forms
 - *The new management **had been looking** to create 20 new jobs.*

D

- shall (I, we), shan't
- will, won't

The future seen from the (future in the past)

TODO

Can, could, be able to and be allowed to

B

- can, could, be able to
 - If we talk about a single achievement, rather than a general ability in the past, we usually use **be able to** rather than **could**
 - *Sophie **could** play the flute quite well.*
 - *She swam strongly and **was able to** cross the river easily, even though it was swollen by the heavy rain.*
 - **could** is more natural than **be able to**
 - in negative sentences
 - with verbs of senses: feel, hear, see, smell, taste.
 - with verbs of 'thinking': believe, decide, remember, understand

C

- Can and could: possibility
 - theoretical possibility ⇒ could
 - if something is possible and actually happens ⇒ can
 - *It **could/can** be expensive to keep a cat.*
 - if something is theoretically or actually impossible ⇒ can't (not couldn't)
 - *The doctor **can't** see you this morning.*

D

- can == very real possibility
- could == is less likely

E

- to talk about permission for **one particular** past action, we use **was / were allowed to**, but not **could**
 - *Anyone **could** fish in the lake.*
 - *Although he didn't have a ticket, Ned **was allowed to** come in.*
- In negative we can use **couldn't** or **wasn't / weren't allowed to**

Verbs types

- Main verb
- Axilary verb
- Linking verb