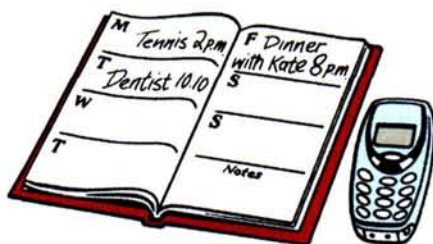


Present tenses (I am doing / I do)
for the future

A

Present continuous (I am doing) with a future meaning

This is Ben's diary for next week.

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

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

I'm doing something (tomorrow) = I have already decided and arranged to do it:

- ☐ A: What are you **doing** on Saturday evening? (*not* What do you do)
- B: I'm **going** to the theatre. (*not* I go)
- ☐ A: What time is Cathy **arriving** tomorrow?
- B: Half past ten. I'm **meeting** her at the station.
- ☐ I'm **not working** tomorrow, so we can go out somewhere.
- ☐ Ian **isn't playing** football next Saturday. He's hurt his leg.

'I'm going to (do)' is also possible in these sentences:

- ☐ What are you **going to do** on Saturday evening?

But the present continuous is more natural for arrangements. See also Unit 20B.

Do not use **will** to talk about what you have arranged to do:

- ☐ What are you **doing** this evening? (*not* What will you do)
- ☐ Alex **is getting** married next month. (*not* will get)

You can also use the present continuous for an action *just before you begin to do it*. This happens especially with verbs of movement (*go/come/leave* etc.):

- ☐ I'm tired. I'm **going** to bed now. Goodnight. (*not* I go to bed now)
- ☐ 'Tina, are you ready yet?' 'Yes, I'm **coming**.' (*not* I come)

B

Present simple (I do) with a future meaning

We use the present simple when we talk about timetables, programmes etc. (for public transport, cinemas etc.):

- ☐ My train **leaves** at 11.30, so I need to be at the station by 11.15.
- ☐ What time **does** the film **begin** this evening?
- ☐ It's Wednesday tomorrow. / Tomorrow **is** Wednesday.

You can use the present simple to talk about people if their plans are fixed like a timetable:

- ☐ I **start** my new job on Monday.
- ☐ What time **do** you **finish** work tomorrow?

But the continuous is more usual for personal arrangements:

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

Compare:

Present continuous

- ☐ What time **are** you **arriving**?
- ☐ I'm **going** to the cinema this evening.

Present simple

- ☐ What time **does** the train **arrive**?
- ☐ The film **begins** at 8.15 (this evening).

- 19.1 A friend of yours is planning to go on holiday soon. You ask her about her plans. Use the words in brackets to make your questions.

- 1 (where / go?) Where are you going?
- 2 (how long / go for?)
- 3 (when / leave?)
- 4 (go / alone?)
- 5 (travel / by car?)
- 6 (where / stay?)

Scotland.
Ten days.
Next Friday.
No, with a friend.
No, by train.
In a hotel.



- 19.2 Tom wants you to visit him, but you are very busy. Look at your diary for the next few days and explain to him why you can't come.



TOM: Can you come on Monday evening?

YOU: Sorry, but I'm playing volleyball. (1)

TOM: What about Tuesday evening then?

YOU: No, not Tuesday. I (2)

TOM: And Wednesday evening?

YOU: (3)

TOM: Well, are you free on Thursday?

YOU: I'm afraid not. (4)

- 19.3 Have you arranged to do anything at these times? Write sentences about yourself.

- 1 (this evening) I'm going out this evening. or I'm not doing anything this evening.
- 2 (tomorrow morning) I
- 3 (tomorrow evening)
- 4 (next Sunday)
- 5 (choose another day or time)

- 19.4 Put the verb into the more suitable form, present continuous or present simple.

- 1 I 'm going (go) to the cinema this evening.
- 2 Does the film begin (the film / begin) at 3.30 or 4.30?
- 3 We (have) a party next Saturday. Would you like to come?
- 4 The art exhibition (finish) on 3 May.
- 5 I (not / go) out this evening. I (stay) at home.
- 6 '..... (you / do) anything tomorrow morning?' 'No, I'm free. Why?'
- 7 We (go) to a concert tonight. It (start) at 7.30.
- 8 I (leave) now. I've come to say goodbye.
- 9 A: Have you seen Liz recently?
B: No, but we (meet) for lunch next week.
- 10 You are on the train to London and you ask another passenger:
Excuse me. What time (this train / get) to London?
- 11 You are talking to Helen:
Helen, I (go) to the supermarket.
(you / come) with me?
- 12 You and a friend are watching television. You say:
I'm bored with this programme. What time (it / end)?
- 13 I (not / use) the car this evening, so you can have it.
- 14 Sue (come) to see us tomorrow. She
(travel) by train and her train (arrive) at 10.15.

(I'm) going to (do)

A

I am going to do something = I have already decided to do it, I intend to do it:

- ☐ A: Are you going to watch the late film on TV tonight?
- B: No, I'm going to have an early night.
- ☐ A: I hear Sarah has won some money. What is she going to do with it?
- B: She's going to buy a new car.
- ☐ I'm just going to make a quick phone call. Can you wait for me?
- ☐ This cheese looks horrible. I'm not going to eat it.

B

I am doing and I am going to do

We use I am doing (*present continuous*) when we say what we have *arranged* to do – for example, arranged to meet somebody, arranged to go somewhere:

- ☐ What time are you meeting Ann this evening?
- ☐ I'm leaving tomorrow. I've got my plane ticket.

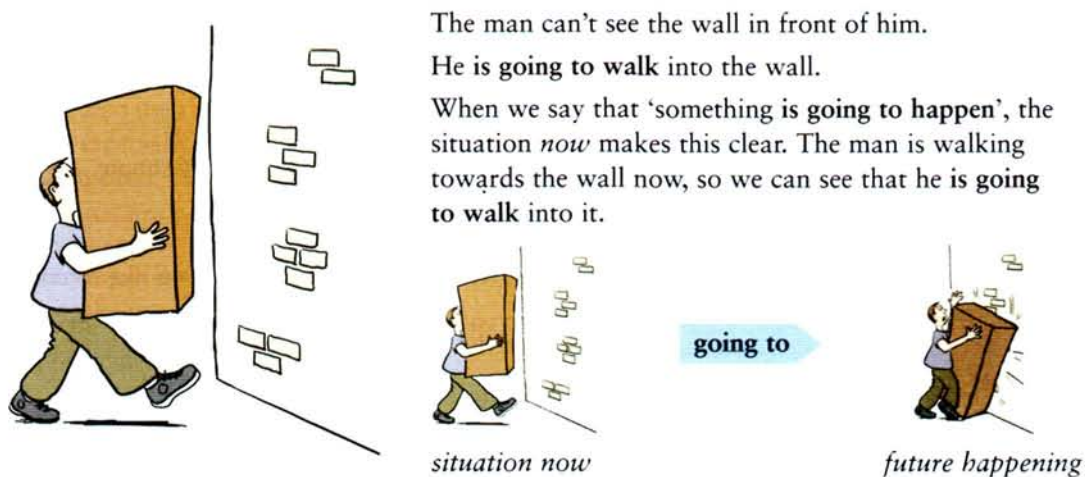
I am going to do something = I've decided to do it (but perhaps not *arranged* to do it):

- ☐ 'Your shoes are dirty.' 'Yes, I know. I'm going to clean them.' (= I've decided to clean them, but I haven't *arranged* to clean them)
- ☐ I've decided not to stay here any longer. Tomorrow I'm going to look for somewhere else to stay.

Often the difference is very small and either form is possible.

C

You can also say that 'something is going to happen' in the future. For example:



Some more examples:

- ☐ 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)
- ☐ The economic situation is bad now and things are going to get worse.

D

I was going to (do something) = I intended to do it, but didn't do it:

- ☐ We were going to travel by train, but then we decided to go by car instead.
- ☐ Peter was going to do the exam, but he changed his mind.
- ☐ I was just going to cross the road when somebody shouted 'Stop!'

You can say that 'something was going to happen' (but didn't happen):

- ☐ I thought it was going to rain, but it didn't.

20.1 Write a question with **going to** for each situation.

- 1 Your friend has won some money. You ask:
(what / do with it?) What are you going to do with it?
- 2 Your friend is going to a party tonight. You ask:
(what / wear?)
- 3 Your friend has just bought a new table. You ask:
(where / put it?)
- 4 Your friend has decided to have a party. You ask:
(who / invite?)

20.2 Read the situations and complete the dialogues. Use **going to**.

- 1 You have decided to tidy your room this morning.
FRIEND: Are you going out this morning?
YOU: No, I'm going to tidy my room.
- 2 You bought a sweater, but it doesn't fit you very well. You have decided to take it back.
FRIEND: That sweater is too big for you.
YOU: I know.
- 3 You have been offered a job, but you have decided not to accept it.
FRIEND: I hear you've been offered a job.
YOU: That's right, but
- 4 You have to phone Sarah. It's morning now, and you have decided to phone her tonight.
FRIEND: Have you phoned Sarah yet?
YOU: No,
- 5 You are in a restaurant. The food is awful and you've decided to complain.
FRIEND: This food is awful, isn't it?
YOU: Yes, it's disgusting.

20.3 What is **going to** happen in these situations? Use the words in brackets.

- 1 There are a lot of black clouds in the sky.
(rain) It's going to rain.
- 2 It is 8.30. Tom is leaving his house. He has to be at work at 8.45, but the journey takes 30 minutes.
(late) He
- 3 There is a hole in the bottom of the boat. A lot of water is coming in through the hole.
(sink) The boat
- 4 Lucy and Chris are driving. There is very little petrol left in the tank. The nearest petrol station is a long way away.
(run out) They

20.4 Complete the sentences with **was/were going to** + the following verbs:

buy give up have phone play ~~travel~~

- 1 We were going to travel by train, but then we decided to go by car instead.
- 2 I some new clothes yesterday, but I was very busy and didn't have time to go to the shops.
- 3 Martin and I tennis last week, but he was injured.
- 4 I Jane, but I decided to email her instead.
- 5 A: When I last saw Tim, he his job.
B: That's right, but in the end he decided to stay where he was.
- 6 We a party last week, but some of our friends couldn't come, so we cancelled it.

Will/shall 1

A

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

- ☐ Oh, I've left the door open. **I'll go** and shut it.
- ☐ 'What would you like to drink?' 'I'll **have** an orange juice, please.'
- ☐ 'Did you phone Lucy?' 'Oh no, I forgot. I'll **phone** her now.'

You cannot use the *present simple* (**I do / I go** etc.) in these sentences:

- ☐ I'll go and shut the door. (*not* I go and shut)

We often use **I think I'll ...** and **I don't think I'll ...** :

- ☐ I feel a bit hungry. **I think I'll have** something to eat.
- ☐ **I don't think I'll go** out tonight. I'm too tired.

In spoken English the negative of **will** is usually **won't** (= **will not**):

- ☐ I can see you're busy, so **I won't stay** long.

B

Do *not* use **will** to talk about what you have already decided or arranged to do (see Units 19–20):

- ☐ I'm **going** on holiday next Saturday. (*not* I'll go)
- ☐ **Are you working** tomorrow? (*not* Will you work)

C

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

Offering to do something

- ☐ That bag looks heavy. I'll **help** you with it. (*not* I help)

Agreeing to do something

- ☐ A: Can you give Tim this book?
- B: Sure, I'll **give** it to him when I see him this afternoon.

Promising to do something

- ☐ Thanks for lending me the money. I'll **pay** you back on Friday.
- ☐ **I won't tell** anyone what happened. I promise.

Asking somebody to do something (Will you ... ?)

- ☐ **Will you** please turn the stereo down? I'm trying to concentrate.

You can use **won't** to say that somebody refuses to do something:

- ☐ I've tried to give her advice, but she **won't listen**.
- ☐ The car **won't start**. (= the car 'refuses' to start)



D

Shall I ... ? Shall we ... ?

Shall is used mostly in the questions **shall I ... ? / shall we ... ?**

We use **shall I ... ? / shall we ... ?** to ask somebody's opinion (especially in offers or suggestions):

- ☐ **Shall I** open the window? (= Do you want me to open the window?)
- ☐ I've got no money. What **shall I** do? (= What do you suggest?)
- ☐ 'Shall we go?' 'Just a minute. I'm not ready yet.'
- ☐ Where **shall we** go this evening?

Compare **shall I ... ?** and **will you ... ?**:

- ☐ **Shall I** shut the door? (= Do you want me to shut it?)
- ☐ **Will you** shut the door? (= I want you to shut it)

21.1 Complete the sentences with I'll + a suitable verb.

- 1 I'm too tired to walk home. I think I'll take a taxi.
- 2 'It's cold in this room.' 'Is it? on the heating then.'
- 3 A: We haven't got any milk.
B: Oh, I forgot to buy some. and get some now.
- 4 'Shall I do the washing-up?' 'No, it's all right. it later.'
- 5 'I don't know how to use this computer.' 'OK, you.'
- 6 'Would you like tea or coffee?' '..... coffee, please.'
- 7 'Goodbye! Have a nice holiday.' 'Thanks, you a postcard.'
- 8 Thanks for letting me borrow your camera. it back to you on Monday, OK?
- 9 'Are you coming with us?' 'No, I think here.'

21.2 Read the situations and write sentences with I think I'll ... or I don't think I'll ...

- 1 It's a bit cold. The window is open and you decide to close it. You say:
I think I'll close the window.
- 2 You are feeling tired and it's getting late. You decide to go to bed. You say:
I think
- 3 A friend of yours offers you a lift in his car, but you decide to walk. You say:
Thank you, but
- 4 You arranged to play tennis today. Now you decide that you don't want to play. You say:
I don't think
- 5 You were going to go swimming. Now you decide that you don't want to go. You say:
.....

21.3 Which is correct? (If necessary, study Units 19–20 first.)

- 1 'Did you phone Lucy?' 'Oh no, I forgot. I phone / I'll phone her now.' (I'll phone is correct)
- 2 I can't meet you tomorrow. I'm playing / I'll play tennis. (I'm playing is correct)
- 3 'I meet / I'll meet you outside the hotel in half an hour, OK?' 'Yes, that's fine.'
- 4 'I need some money.' 'OK, I'm lending / I'll lend you some. How much do you need?'
- 5 I'm having / I'll have a party next Saturday. I hope you can come.
- 6 'Remember to get a newspaper when you go out.' 'OK. I don't forget / I won't forget.'
- 7 What time does your train leave / will your train leave tomorrow?
- 8 I asked Sue what happened, but she doesn't tell / won't tell me.
- 9 'Are you doing / Will you do anything tomorrow evening?' 'No, I'm free. Why?'
- 10 I don't want to go out alone. Do you come / Will you come with me?

21.4 What do you say in these situations? Write sentences with shall I ... ? or shall we ... ?

- 1 You and a friend want to do something this evening, but you don't know what.
You ask your friend. What shall we do this evening?
- 2 You try on a jacket in a shop. You are not sure whether to buy it or not. You ask a friend for advice. it?
- 3 It's Helen's birthday next week. You want to give her a present, but you don't know what.
You ask a friend for advice.
What
- 4 You and a friend are going on holiday together, but you haven't decided where.
You ask him/her.
- 5 You and a friend are going out. You haven't decided whether to go by car or to walk. You ask him/her. or
- 6 Your friend wants you to phone later. You don't know what time to phone. You ask him/her.
.....

A

We do *not* use **will** to say what somebody has already arranged or decided to do:

- ☐ Diane **is working** next week. (*not* Diane **will** work)
- ☐ **Are you going to watch** television this evening? (*not* Will you watch)

For 'is working' and 'Are you going to ...?', see Units 19–20.

But often, when we talk about the future, we are *not* talking about what somebody has decided to do. For example:

Kate is doing an exam next week. Chris and Joe are talking about it.



She'll pass does *not* mean 'she has decided to pass'. Joe is saying what he knows or thinks will happen. He is *predicting* the future.

When we predict a future happening or situation, we use **will/won't**.

Some more examples:

- ☐ Jill has been away a long time. When she returns, she'll **find** a lot of changes here.
- ☐ 'Where **will** you **be** this time next year?' 'I'll **be** in Japan.'
- ☐ That plate is hot. If you touch it, you'll **burn** yourself.
- ☐ Tom **won't** pass the exam. He hasn't studied hard enough.
- ☐ When **will** you get your exam results?

B

We often use **will** ('ll) with:

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| probably | <input type="checkbox"/> I'll probably be home late tonight. |
| I expect | <input type="checkbox"/> I haven't seen Carol today. I expect she'll phone this evening. |
| (I'm) sure | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't worry about the exam. I'm sure you'll pass. |
| (I) think | <input type="checkbox"/> Do you think Sarah will like the present we bought her? |
| (I) don't think | <input type="checkbox"/> I don't think the exam will be very difficult. |
| I wonder | <input type="checkbox"/> I wonder what will happen. |

After I **hope**, we generally use the present (**will** is also possible):

- ☐ I hope Kate **passes** the exam. (*or* I hope Kate **will pass** ...)
- ☐ I hope it **doesn't** rain tomorrow.

C

Generally we use **will** to talk about the future, but sometimes we use **will** to talk about *now*.

For example:

- ☐ Don't phone Ann now. She'll be busy. (= she'll be busy *now*)

D

I shall ... / we shall ...

Normally we use **shall** only with I and we. You can say:

- I shall *or* I will (I'll) we shall *or* we will (we'll)
- ☐ I **shall** be late this evening. (*or* I **will** be)
 - ☐ We **shall** probably go to Scotland in the summer. (*or* We **will** probably go)

In spoken English we normally use I'll and we'll:

- ☐ We'll probably go to Scotland.

The negative of **shall** is **shall not** or **shan't**:

- ☐ I **shan't** be here tomorrow. (*or* I **won't** be)

Do not use **shall** with he/she/it/you/they:

- ☐ She **will** be very angry. (*not* She **shall** be)

22.1 Which form of the verb is correct (or more natural) in these sentences? The verbs are underlined.

- 1 Diane isn't free on Saturday. She'll work / She's working. (She's working is correct)
- 2 I'll go / I'm going to a party tomorrow night. Would you like to come too?
- 3 I think Jenny will get / is getting the job. She has a lot of experience.
- 4 I can't meet you this evening. A friend of mine will come / is coming to see me.
- 5 A: Have you decided where to go for your holidays?
B: Yes, we'll go / we're going to Italy.
- 6 There's no need to be afraid of the dog. It won't hurt / It isn't hurting you.

22.2 Complete the sentences with will ('ll) + the following verbs:

be come get like live look meet ~~pass~~

- 1 Don't worry about the exam. I'm sure you 'll pass.
- 2 Why don't you try on this jacket? It nice on you.
- 3 You must meet George sometime. I think you him.
- 4 It's raining. Don't go out. You wet.
- 5 Do you think people longer in the future?
- 6 Goodbye. I expect we again before long.
- 7 I've invited Sue to the party, but I don't think she
- 8 When the new road is finished, my journey to work much shorter.

22.3 Put in will ('ll) or won't.

- 1 Can you wait for me? I won't be very long.
- 2 There's no need to take an umbrella with you. It rain.
- 3 If you don't eat anything now, you be hungry later.
- 4 I'm sorry about what happened yesterday. It happen again.
- 5 I've got some incredible news! You never believe what happened.
- 6 Don't ask Amanda for advice. She know what to do.

22.4 Where do you think you will be at these times? Write true sentences about yourself. Use:

I'll be ... or I'll probably be ... or I don't know where I'll be

- 1 (next Monday evening at 7.45) I'll be at home.
or I'll probably be at home.
or I don't know where I'll be.
- 2 (at 5 o'clock tomorrow morning)
.....
- 3 (at 10.30 tomorrow morning)
.....
- 4 (next Saturday afternoon at 4.15)
.....
- 5 (this time next year)
.....

22.5 Write questions using do you think ... will ... ? + the following:

be back cost end get married happen ~~like~~ rain

- 1 I've bought Rosa this picture. Do you think she'll like it ?
- 2 The weather doesn't look very good. Do you ?
- 3 The meeting is still going on. When do you ?
- 4 My car needs to be repaired. How much ?
- 5 Sally and David are in love. Do ?
- 6 'I'm going out now.' 'OK. What time ?'
- 7 The future situation is uncertain. What ?

I will and I'm going to

A

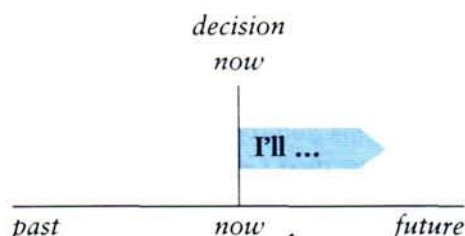
Future actions

Study the difference between **will** and **(be) going to**:

Sue is talking to Helen:



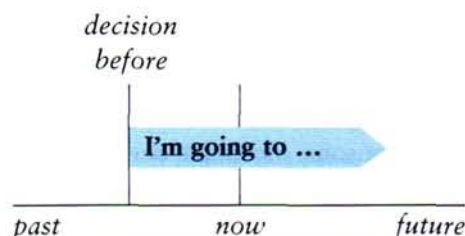
will ('ll): We use **will** when we decide to do something at the time of speaking. The speaker has not decided before. The party is a new idea.



Later that day, Helen meets Dave:



(be) going to: We use **(be) going to** when we have *already decided* to do something. Helen had already decided to invite lots of people *before* she spoke to Dave.



Compare:

- ☐ 'Gary phoned while you were out.' 'OK. **I'll call him back.**'
- ☐ 'Gary phoned while you were out.' 'Yes, I know. **I'm going to call him back.**'
- ☐ 'Ann is in hospital.' 'Oh really? I didn't know. **I'll go and visit her.**'
- ☐ 'Ann is in hospital.' 'Yes, I know. **I'm going to visit her this evening.**'

B

Future happenings and situations (predicting the future)

Sometimes there is not much difference between **will** and **going to**. For example, you can say:

- ☐ I think the weather **will** be nice this afternoon.
- ☐ I think the weather **is going to** be nice this afternoon.

When we say something is **going to** happen, we think this is because of the situation *now* (see Unit 20C). For example:

- ☐ Look at those black clouds. It's **going to rain**. (*not* It will rain)
(We can see that it **is going to rain** from the clouds that are in the sky *now*.)
- ☐ I feel terrible. I think I'm **going to be sick**. (*not* I think I'll be sick)
(I think I'm **going to be sick** because I feel terrible *now*.)

Do not use **will** in this type of situation.

In other situations, use **will**:

- ☐ Tom **will** probably get here at about 8 o'clock.
- ☐ I think Sarah **will** like the present we bought for her.
- ☐ These shoes are very well-made. They'll last a long time.

23.1 Complete the sentences using will ('ll) or going to.

- 1 A: Why are you turning on the television?
B: I'm going to watch the news. (I / watch)
- 2 A: Oh, I've just realised. I haven't got any money.
B: Haven't you? Well, don't worry. _____ you some. (I / lend)
- 3 A: I've got a headache.
B: Have you? Wait a second and _____ an aspirin for you. (I / get)
- 4 A: Why are you filling that bucket with water?
B: _____ the car. (I / wash)
- 5 A: I've decided to repaint this room.
B: Oh, have you? What colour _____ it? (you / paint)
- 6 A: Where are you going? Are you going shopping?
B: Yes, _____ something for dinner. (I / buy)
- 7 A: I don't know how to use this camera.
B: It's easy. _____ you. (I / show)
- 8 A: What would you like to eat?
B: _____ a sandwich, please. (I / have)
- 9 A: Did you post that letter for me?
B: Oh, I'm sorry. I completely forgot. _____ it now. (I / do)
- 10 A: The ceiling in this room doesn't look very safe, does it?
B: No, it looks as if _____ down. (it / fall)
- 11 A: Has George decided what to do when he leaves school?
B: Yes. Everything is planned. _____ a holiday for a few weeks.
(he / have) Then _____ a computer programming course. (he / do)

23.2 Read the situations and complete the sentences using will ('ll) or going to.

- 1 The phone rings and you answer. Somebody wants to speak to Jim.
CALLER: Hello. Can I speak to Jim, please?
YOU: Just a moment. I'll get him. (I / get)
- 2 It's a nice day, so you have decided to take a walk. Just before you go, you tell your friend.
YOU: The weather's too nice to stay in. _____ a walk. (I / take)
FRIEND: Good idea. I think _____ you. (I / join)
- 3 Your friend is worried because she has lost an important letter.
YOU: Don't worry about the letter. I'm sure _____ it. (you / find)
FRIEND: I hope so.
- 4 There was a job advertised in the paper recently. At first you were interested, but then you decided not to apply.
FRIEND: Have you decided what to do about that job you were interested in?
YOU: Yes, _____ for it. (I / not / apply)
- 5 You and a friend come home very late. Other people in the house are asleep. Your friend is noisy.
YOU: Shh! Don't make so much noise. _____ everybody up. (you / wake)
- 6 Paul has to go to the airport to catch a plane tomorrow morning.
PAUL: Liz, I need somebody to take me to the airport tomorrow morning.
LIZ: That's no problem. _____ you. (I / take) What time is your flight?
PAUL: 10.50.
LIZ: OK, _____ at about 9 o'clock then. (we / leave)
Later that day, Joe offers to take Paul to the airport.
JOE: Paul, do you want me to take you to the airport?
PAUL: No thanks, Joe. _____ me. (Liz / take)