GRAMMAR REFERENCE PRESENT CONTINUOUS FOR FUTURE – ADVERBS - PT.02

(FONTE: Freepik)

Present continuous and ‘be going to’ for talking about the future

Meaning and use

We can use the **present continuous** to talk about the future when we have already arranged to do something. It's definite, not just an idea. Perhaps we have put the arrangement in our diaries.

*'Are you free at 2 o'clock on Tuesday?' 'No, **I'm meeting** a client.'*

We can use **be going to** to talk about something that we have decided to do in the future, but not arranged yet. It's possible that the plan might change.

*When I finish at college, **I'm going to** spend a year travelling.*

The uses of the present continuous and 'be going to' with future meaning are very similar and it is often possible to use either of them, with little or no change in meaning.

We also use **be going to** for something that we expect to happen because we can see from the present situation that it is very likely. We can't use the present continuous in this way.

*It's so cold. I'm sure **it's going to** snow soon.*

*Oh no! That **car's going to** hit the tree.*

Form

Present continuous

Subject + am/is/are + -ing form

Be going to

Subject + am/is/are + going to + infinitive

For both tenses, we usually use contractions, or short forms (I'm, he's, we're, etc.) when we are speaking.

Positive

I'm spending *the day on the beach tomorrow with Zach.*

We're going to *look for a nice restaurant with a view of the sea.*

Negative

We're not visiting *the museum on Saturday.*

They're not going to *visit the Taj Mahal.*

Question

What are you doing *at the weekend? (= what have you arranged?)*

What are you going to do *at the weekend? (= what is your plan?)*

Are they going to *get married in the summer?*

Take note: time expressions

For both the present continuous for arrangements and 'be going to' for plans, we often use time expressions like **at half-past ten, next Thursday, at the weekend, soon**.

Are you coming home ***soon****?*

I'm going to send out all the invitations ***next week.***

Take note: arrangements and timetables

Use the present continuous and NOT the present simple for things that you have arranged to do. Use the present simple for future events on timetables and programmes.

We're going *by train tomorrow morning.*

The train leaves *at 7.45.*

Spoken English

We often pronounce **going to** as '**gonna**', especially in informal conversation.

Verb patterns: gerunds and infinitives

Meaning and use

Gerunds are the **-ing** form of a verb, and infinitives are the **to + base form**. These words can be confusing; they combine the meaning of a verb with the grammar of a noun.

- My father asked me **to phone** him. I enjoy **talking** with my father.

So, how is **'to phone'** like a noun? Imagine the first sentence said: *My father asked me a question*. You can see how **a question** and **to phone** have the same grammatical role. Similarly, you could replace **'talking'** with the noun **conversation**.

Using gerunds and infinitives correctly with verbs can be difficult because some verbs go with only the infinitive or only the gerund, and others can go with either one.

- I **enjoy going** to the movies. (enjoy + -ing form only)
- Jason **wants to visit** a museum on Friday. (want + infinitive form only)
- Tony **likes eating** at restaurants. Tony **likes to eat** at restaurants. (like + either -ing or infinitive form)

Another difficulty is that sometimes choosing the infinitive or the gerund will change the meaning of the sentence.

- Mary **stopped eating** at six.
  (Mary was eating, and at six o'clock, she stopped.)
- Mary **stopped to eat** at six.
  (Mary was walking home, and at six o'clock she stopped walking and went into a café to eat.)

The best way to learn which verbs take infinitives, gerunds, or both, is to notice them in context when you read, or to consult grammar references. Here are some of the most common verbs:

Followed by a gerund (-ing form)

admit, advise, consider, discuss, dislike, dread, enjoy, finish, mind, practise, recommend, suggest

Followed by an infinitive

agree, appear, choose, decide, expect, fail, hope, learn, need, refuse, seem, wait, want

Followed by either, usually with no change in meaning

begin, continue, hate, like, love, prefer, start

Followed by either, with a change in meaning

forget, regret, remember, stop, try

Form

Gerunds and infinitives can follow verbs in the form **verb + -ing form of the verb** or **verb + infinitive (to + base form of the verb).**

Positive

- Theresa **suggested going** to the park.
- Ross **decided to go** home instead.

Negative

The negative form is **verb + not + gerund/infinitive**.

- My grandparents have retired and **enjoy not working.**
- Frank **hopes not to travel** over the holidays.

Question

- What did the doctor **advise taking** for your cold?
- Do you **need to do** your laundry this weekend?

Take note: ‘split’ infinitives

A ‘split infinitive’ has an adverb between **to** and the verb.

- It is important **to thoroughly study** for an examination.
- His sister seems **to really want** a cat.

Some people think split infinitives are ungrammatical. If you are writing formal English, it is best to avoid using them in your writing.

Take note: possessives

Remember that gerunds are types of nouns, so you can use possessive adjectives like *my, your, his, her,* etc.

- Do you **mind my going out** for a while?
- I **like his planning** our holidays for us.

Ways of talking about the future

1) We use **will** for statements about the future, and for **predictions** about the future. It often expresses the future as fact – so it's used for very strong opinions or predictions. It can also be used for **instant decisions** made at the time of speaking.

- *In 100 years' time, everyone **will have** an electric car.*

2) **Be going to** is used for present situations that extend into the future, or for something you want to do. There is often present evidence for the prediction.

- *The government **is going to raise** fuel taxes.*

3) The **present continuous** is used for arrangements. It's very similar to going to for intention.

- ***I'm cooking** for six guests next week.*

4) The **present simple** is used for timetabled events.

- *The meal **starts** at six.*

5) In addition, we can use **be about to** talk about that will happen in the near future.

- *Quick, the film is **about to** start!*
- *We're **about to** leave. Get on the bus.*

6) Some normal verbs also indicate plans and intentions for the future.

- *I **plan** to study photography next year.*

- *I **aim** to be finished by 8pm.*
- *Mark **intends** to move to Berlin.*
- *We've **arranged** to meet next Monday.*
- *She **decided** to take the train tomorrow.*

Form

Will: subject + will + infinitive

Be going to: subject + am/are/is going to + base form of verb

Present continuous: subject + am/are/is + ing form of verb

Present simple: subject + verb

About to: subject + am/are/is about to + base form

Normal verbs: use as usual, followed by to + base form of verb

Future continuous and be + infinitive with future sense

Meaning and use

Future continuous

We use the future continuous to talk about events that will be in progress at a particular time or over a period of time in the future. These are usually plans or predictions.

- *I will be travelling around for three months before heading for Nepal.*
  This time next year he'll be working in Dubai.
  A taxi will be waiting outside the station when you arrive.
  The sky looks very dark. It'll be raining soon.
  What will you be doing tonight?

We can also use the future continuous to say that a future action will be in progress at the same time as another action.

- *I'll be thinking of you when I'm sitting on the beach in the Bahamas.*

Be + infinitive

We use be + infinitive to talk about future events which involve instruction or necessity.

- *Students are to enter the hall from the back.*
  The children are to do their homework before watching TV.
  You're not to go out without telling me!

This structure is usually used in more formal English and to describe official arrangements.

- *The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge are to visit India next month.*
  They are to be married soon.

The **be + infinitive** structure is frequently used in newspaper, radio and television reports. It expresses near certainty that what is forecast will happen.

- *A man is to appear in court later today charged with murder.*
  The company has announced that it is to close 200 of its high street stores.

Take note: future continuous for assumption, enquiries and emphasis

We can also use the future continuous to say what we believe or imagine to be true.

- *It's seven o'clock. She'll be driving back now.*

We also use it for emphasis when talking about plans or intentions.

- *We won't be taking the car on the ferry to France. It's too expensive.*

In this case it can be replaced by the **present continuous** or **going to + main verb**.

- *We're not taking the car on the ferry to France. It's too expensive. (present continuous)*
  (We're not going to take the car on the ferry to France. It's too expensive. (going to + main verb)

The future continuous is sometimes used to make polite enquiries about people's plans.

- *Will you be staying for dinner?*

Form

Future continuous positive

subject + will + be + -ing form of verb

- *I'll be starting in the south and making my way north by train.*

Future continuous negative

subject + won't + be + -ing form of verb

- *They won't be staying very long as they have to get back.*

Questions

Present perfect continuous questions are made with:

will / won’t + subject + be + -ing form of verb

We can also use question words.

- *Why will they be arriving so late tonight?*

Be + infinitive positive

subject + be + infinitive with to

- *The prime minister is to give a speech tonight at the town hall.*

subject + not + be + infinitive with to

- *You’re not to go to bed late tonight. You’ve got to get up early tomorrow.*

  Take note: shall/will

Sometimes, and in more formal situations, we can also use shall / shan’t instead of will / won’t with I and we in future continuous sentences.

I shall be arriving late tonight as the concert doesn’t finish until 11.30.
I shan’t be leaving here before 8 tonight as I have so much work to do.Pronunciation

We often use a contraction with will in the future continuous in informal writing and when speaking:

They’ll be wondering where we are.

Will, going to, be likely to and might

Form - will and might

For **will** and **might**, the form is **subject + will / might + infinitive**.

We use the same form for all persons (I, you, he, she, and so on). You can contract **will** to **'ll** in the positive form - we normally do this in spoken language.

Positive

- ***The new smartphone will have*** *all sorts of special features.*
- ***We'll be connected*** *24/7 when everywhere has free wifi.*
- *I've ordered a new phone for the office.* ***It might arrive*** *today.*

Negative

- ***This video call will not last long*** *- we only have one thing to discuss.*
- ***We won't see*** *much change in keyboard layouts for the next few years.*
- ***There might not be*** *any announcements about the new technology room today - don't count on it!*

We can use the contracted form **won't** for all persons (I, you, he, she, and so on). Sometimes we contract **might not** to **mightn't**, especially in speaking.

Form - going to and be likely to

For **going to** and **likely to**, the form is **subject + am/are/is + going to/likely to + infinitive**. We can contract **I am** (I'm), **you**

are/we are/they are (you're/we're/they're) and **he is/she is** (he's/she's).

Positive

- ***They're going to announce*** *a new line of laptops soon.*
- ***The line is going to come out*** *in September.* ***It's going to be*** *all over the news.*
- ***It's likely to be*** *a major advance in computing technology.*

Negative

- *Some people say* ***technology isn't going to change*** *our lives that much.*
- ***We aren't going to see*** *the smartring any time soon.*

The negative of **likely** is **unlikely**.

- ***The new smartwatches are unlikely*** *to be a big revolution in technology.*

Questions
To form questions with **will**, **going to** and **likely**, it's **auxiliary** (Will/Am/Is/Are) **+ subject + verb**. We often use short answers.

- ***Will this new smartwatch change*** *my life? No, it* ***won't****.*
- ***Are they going to announce*** *the software release today? Yes, they* ***are****.*
- ***Is it likely to be*** *any better than the previous version? No, it* ***isn't****.*

We can also make questions with question words.

- ***When will they sort out*** *the computers at work?*
- ***Who will win*** *the tech race?*
- ***Where are they going to release*** *the new phone first?*

It is possible to ask a question with **Might + subject + infinitive**, but it's more common to form a question with **Do you think + subject + might + infinitive**.

- ***Do you think this might change*** *computing as we know it?*

Important note: Will and might

Remember that **will** and **might** are modal verbs, so we use the infinitive without **to** after them.

WRONG:

- *People **will to go** on holiday to the moon within 50 years.*
- *They **might to make** a computer that is really small.*

CORRECT:

- *People **will go** on holiday to the moon within 50 years.*
- *They **might make** a computer that is really small.*

Adverb position 1

Meaning and use

Adverbs are words and phrases that we use to give more information about verbs, adjectives and other adverbs. They answer questions such as where? when? how? how often?

*He walked **quickly** to the station.*

*I **often** play tennis.*

*They haven't been home **recently**.*

*He wore a **bright** yellow short.*

*She answered **very quickly***.

Form

When adverbs are used to modify a verb, generally they can be placed in three positions:

- First: before the subject

  ***Carefully**, Peter opened the box.*

- Second: before the main verb

  *Peter **carefully** opened the box.*

- Third: after the direct object or complement of the verb.

  *Peter opened the box **carefully**.*

You can put many adverbs in any of these positions depending on context or style.

Take note: Second position adverbs and the verb to be

When the verb **to be** is the main verb of a sentence, we usually put adverbs **immediately after** the verb.

*He's **always** on time.*

*I was **never** happy at school.*

Take note: Second position adverbs with auxiliaries and modals

When a sentence has an auxiliary or modal, we usually put the adverb after the first auxiliary or modal and before the main verb.

*You can **never** predict what mood he is going to be in.*

*I've **rarely** seen him angry.*

*I will **always** love you.*

*They shouldn't **ever** have done that.*

Take Note: Second position adverbs in questions

In a question adverbs come between the subject and the main verb.

*Have you **ever** thought of changing job?*

*Would you **really** like it if I visited?*

Take note: Adverbs and negatives

In negative sentences put the adverb after the auxiliary/modal and before the main verb

*I don't **usually** like going out on weeknights.*

*They won't **always** let you in after midnight.*

Take Note: Where not to put an adverb

We don't put an adverb between a main verb and its direct object.

*I play tennis **very well**.* **Correct**

*I play **very well** tennis.* **Not correct**

Another place we don't put an adverb is between a verb and a gerund or infinitive with to.

*He started cycling **professionally** in 2011.* **Correct**

*He started **professionally** cycling in 2011.* **Not correct**

*I'd like to sit down **again**.* **Correct**

*I'd like **again** to sit down.* **Not correct**

Adverb position 2

Meaning and use

Adverbs are words and phrases that we use to give more information about verbs, adjectives and other adverbs. They answer questions such as where? when? how? how often?

- *He **calmly** picked up his coat and left.*
- *She **regularly** brings her own lunch to work.*
- *I haven't seen my brother **in a while**.*
- *She drives a **dark** black sports car*
- *They deliver **very quickly***.

Form

There are many different adverbs. There is no particular form that identifies a word as an adverb. Some adjectives can be turned in to adverbs by adding **–ly**.

- *It was a **slow** journey.* (adjective)
- *She drove **slowly**.* (adverb)

-ly adjectives are sometimes referred to as **adverbs of manner**. They describe the way someone does something. Note though that not all words that end in **–ly** are adverbs, not all adverbs of manner end in **-ly** and not all adjectives can made into adverbs this way.

Adverbs can be a single word or a group of words.

- *I **really** like it here.*
- *We arrived **the day before yesterday.***

Take note: Adverb position with adjectives

When an adverb is used to talk about an adjective, put the adverb before the adjective.

- *We're **so** glad you came.*
- *I've had a **very** good day today.*
- *I'd say his car was a **dark** blue.*

Take note: Adverb position with other adverbs

When an adverb is used to talk about another adverb, put the adverb before the adverb to be modified.

- *You drove **incredibly** dangerously.*

Take note: Adverb position with verbs

When adverbs are used to modify a verb, generally they can be placed before the subject, before the main verb or after the direct object or complement of the verb.

- ***Usually** I try to get there early.*
- *I **usually** try to get there early*

- *I try to get there early **usually**.*

You can put many adverbs in any of these positions depending on context or style. There are some general guides though that you can follow as we tend to use some adverbs in particular positions.

For more information about the position of adverbs with verbs see **Now, where did I put that adverb?**

Take note: Adverbs of indefinite frequency and degree adverbs

These are frequently used in the second position. Some examples of these adverbs are: **always, never, hardly ever, often, rarely, regularly, seldom, almost, hardly, nearly, quite, scarcely**

- *I will **always** love you.*
- *I had **never** seen anything like it.*

Take note: Adverbs of place and adverbs of definite time and frequency

These usually go in the third position. Some examples of these adverbs are: **downstairs, over there, on the table, last week, daily**

- *I ride my bike **daily**.*

Take note: adverbial phrases of time or frequency

Use these adverbs in the first or third positions, but not the second. Some examples of these adverbials are: **from time to time, as a rule, every so often**

- ***From time to time** I buy things online.*
- *I buy things online **from time to time**.*

Take note: Really

The meaning of the adverb **really** can change depending on its position. Before an adjective it has a meaning similar to **very**.

- *When we lost the match I was **really** disappointed.*

In other positions it has the meaning of **actually** or **in fact, truly**.

- *I **really** do want to go - I wasn't joking.*

Take note: Yet

Yet usually goes in the third position in negatives and questions.

- *Have they arrived **yet**?*

Question tags

What do question tags mean and what do we use them for?

Basically, **question tags** work by turning a statement into a question by adding a tag at the end. The tag is a short yes or no question, and we use different tags depending on the statement. Here are a couple of examples:

*You're here for the interview today, **aren't you**?* (Compare with: Are you here for the interview?)
*You haven't filled all the vacancies yet, **have you**?* (Compare with: Have you filled all the vacancies yet?)

The tag asks if the statement is true and makes it into a question. We use question tags more often when we are speaking than when we are writing.

How do we make question tags?

We can see that question tags are either positive or negative. If the statement part is positive, the tag is negative. If the statement is negative, then the question tag part is postitive. The subject of the statement always appears as a pronoun in the tag.

*You **can** fill out the application form without any problems, **can't** you?* (Positive statement, negative question tag.)
*You **haven't** finished interviewing all the candidates, **have** you?* (Negative statement, positive question tag.)

If the main statement has an auxiliary verb, then the question tag is made with the same auxiliary verb.

Positive statements with question tags

*We **are** meeting this afternoon, **aren't** we?*
*You **have** prepared the spreadsheet, **haven't** you?*
*You **will** be on time for the workshop, **won't** you?*
*You **can** join us for the business lunch, **can't** you?*
*This **is** going to change our products forever, **isn't** it?*

For **positive** statements without auxiliary verbs, we use **do** to make the question tag:

*The new bosses like the idea, **don't** they?*
*He always gives a good presentation, **doesn't** he?*
*All the interviewees arrived on time, **didn't** they?*

Negative statements with question tags

*The job situation **isn’t** getting any better, **is** it?*
*We **haven’t** had so many candidates interested before, **have** we?*
*Our new boss **doesn’t** like to have fun, **does** she?*
*I just **can’t** get this presentation right, **can** I?*

When a form of **be** is the main verb in the statement, we use the matching form in the tag.

*She **is** qualified, **isn’t** she?*
*They **were** impressed by the sales figures, **weren’t** they?*
*It **isn’t** that difficult to understand, **is** it?*
*We **weren’t** ready for the tax increase, **were** we?*

There is a special case if the pronoun is **I** and we use **be** in the statement. The tag is made with **am** when the statement is negative - but when the statement is positive, the tag is made with **aren't**.

***I'm** not the right person for the job, **am** I?*
***I'm** in the right building for the interview, **aren't** I?*

Spoken English

In some ways, question tags are not real questions; that is, the speaker is not asking for new information. Instead, the speaker may be asking for agreement, or trying to start a conversation or keep one going.

The intonation of a tag in a question is important. When someone uses falling intonation in a tag, they think that the statement is true. They use the question tag to invite conversation.

When someone uses rising intonation in a question tag, he is less certain that the statement before the question tag is

correct. The question tag here is a real question – the speaker wants to find out if the statement is really true.

Narrative tenses - Meaning and use

We use narrative tenses to talk about the past. We can use them to tell a story or to describe past events, including personal anecdotes.

- *When I **lived** on the island, I **enjoyed** walking on the beach in the early morning with Bonnie - my best friend and my dog.*
- *Britain **declared** war on Germany on 3 September 1939 after Germany **had attacked** Poland two days earlier. Britain **had been trying** to negotiate a peaceful settlement.*

The four narrative tenses are the past simple, past continuous, past perfect and past perfect continuous and one or more of these can be used in a sentence.

- *We **were walking** as usual one day, when all of a sudden, Bonnie **shot off**. She **started** to bark furiously. I **saw** a man sleeping face down on the sand. **Bonnie continued** to bark, but the man **didn't wake up.** He **wasn't sleeping;** he **was** dead. It **was** clear that the storm **had washed up** the body.*

Past simple

We can use the past simple for actions that started and finished in the past, for example a series of events in someone's life.

- *Nelson Mandela **was born** in 1918. He **became** the first black President of South Africa. He **spent** 27 years in prison in his battle against the system of apartheid.*

The past simple is often used in stories and dialogue, too.

*- When Bobby **went down** for breakfast, Matt **looked up**.*

*- "**Did you hear** the storm last night?"*

*- Bobby **didn't answer**.*

*- "Your brother **went out** last night. He **didn't come back**. Do you know where **he went**?"*

*- Bobby's heart **sank**. She knew exactly where **Dan had gone**…*

Past continuous

We use the past continuous for background information and to describe a scene or situation that continued for some time.

- *At 6 o'clock that evening Dan **was** still **missing**. Bobby **was feeling** worried.*
- *Bonnie **was barking** loudly.*

Past simple and past continuous

We often use the past simple and past continuous together when one action interrupts another.

- *I **was strolling** along the beach one day when suddenly, Bonnie **ran off**.*
- *It **was** still **raining** when Bobby **woke up** the next morning. Dan **was sitting** at the table when she **went** into the kitchen.*

Past simple and past perfect

We can use the past perfect with the past simple together in a sentence to describe an action that happened before another past action.

- *I quickly **realised** that the storm the previous night **had washed up** the body.*
- *Bobby **knew** that Dan **hadn't wanted** to come home but she also knew that **he hadn't had** any other option.*

Past perfect continuous

We use this tense to describe something that has been happening over a long period of time.

- *I could tell that the body **had been lying** on the beach for several hours because the man's clothes were dry.*
- *Britain **had been trying** to negotiate a peaceful settlement between Poland and Germany.*

Take note: linking devices

When we tell a story in the past, we often use linking words or phrases to join two or more sentences or clauses. This helps the narrative to flow in a more interesting and natural way. Some linking phrases and words show a sequence of events or actions.

- *Nelson Mandela never gave up on his struggle against apartheid. **As the years went by,** his fame spread to every corner of the world. **In the end,** under enormous global pressure, the government had no option but to release him.*

Other linking words and phrases that signal order of events are: *First of all …, Then …, Next …, Finally …, After that …,*

After several months/days/hours/weeks …, By the time …, All of a sudden …

We also use linking words and phrases in dialogue to indicate interest in what is being said and to keep the conversation flowing.

- So how did you meet your wife?

*- Well, it's a strange story: **what happened was** I was training as a paramedic and one day we got a call to a house in East Street.*

- Oh, my cousin lives there! …

*- **Really?** … **So, anyway**, when we arrived in East Street, another ambulance was already there!*

*- **So what happened?***

***-** Sylvie and I treated the patient together. The rest is history!*

CRÉDITOS

FREEPIK

BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

https://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/course/lower-intermediate/unit-10/tab/grammar acesso em 25 de agosto de 2022