

Language work: future forms

A Look at the HELP box and then choose the correct words in brackets to complete these sentences.

- 1 In the future, I hope we ('ll have / 're going to have) robots in the home to help us with the housework.
- 2 Hey, Nick, be careful, you ('re going to spill / 'll spill) that coffee on the computer!
- 3 It's John's birthday next week. We ('ll give / 're going to give) him a mobile phone.
- 4 – My laptop has crashed!
– Don't worry. I ('ll lend / 'm going to lend) you mine.
- 5 The Internet (will probably change / is probably going to change) the publishing industry in the way that TV changed the movie industry.
- 6 Futurists predict that smart technology (will be / is going to be) incorporated into fabrics, so you'll be able to email from your coat!

HELP box

Future forms

We use the future simple (**will/won't** + verb) in the following ways:

- To make predictions when you don't have present evidence that something will happen
*Nanobots **will be injected** into the body's bloodstream to treat diseases.*
- To talk about hopes and promises, especially with the words **expect, think, hope** and **probably**
*They hope that people **will interact** naturally with hundreds of smart devices at a time.*
- To describe an instant decision, often when we make an offer
*Sure, **I'll help** you with your homework.*
- To talk about facts that will inevitably happen
***She'll be** 21 in May.*

We use **be going to** + verb in the following ways:

- To describe future intentions
*She's **going to write** a book about ubiquitous computing.*
- To make predictions when you have present evidence that something is going to happen
*By all accounts, nanotechnology **is going to have** a huge impact on business and our daily lives.*

We use the future continuous (**will be** + **-ing** form of the verb) to talk about actions in progress at a specific time in the future.

*In a few years, doctors **will be using** expert systems to diagnose illnesses.*

We use the future perfect (**will have** + past participle) to talk about actions finished at a specific time in the future.

*Soon, engineers **will have built** different types of android.*

B Complete these sentences with the correct future form of the verb in brackets. Use the future continuous or future perfect.

- 1 Thanks to ICT, by the year 2030 we (find) _____ cures for the major diseases of our time.
- 2 In twenty years' time, some people (live) _____ in space, perhaps inside a computerized colony.
- 3 By this time next week, I (work) _____ for IBM.
- 4 By this time next month, I (buy) _____ that BlackBerry that I've been wanting to buy for months.
- 5 Scientists predict that in twenty years' time nearly everyone (live) _____ in smart houses.