

# Present Continuous For Future Use

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## Talking about the future in English

Many students use only **will** or **going to** in order to talk about the future. However, it's very common to use the **present continuous** to talk about the future, in the case of **arrangements that are planned**:



- + **I'm having** dinner with friends tonight.
- + **She's meeting** David at the train station tomorrow.
- He **isn't coming** to the party.
- We **aren't seeing** our family this weekend.
- ? What **are** you **doing** on Saturday?
- ? **Is** Mary **arriving** at 7:00 or 8:00 tomorrow morning?

You can use the **present continuous for future plans** with these words:

- tonight, tomorrow, this weekend
- next week/month/year
- this summer/fall/winter/spring
- on Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday/etc.
- next Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday/etc.

# Will or Going To?

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There are two additional ways to talk about the future in English: **will/won't** and **going to**.

## Use “going to” for plans and arrangements:

- On my next vacation, I’m **going to stay** in a nice hotel in Paris.
- She’s **going to look** for a new job after her current contract ends.
- David’s **going to meet** me at the airport at 8:00.
- We’re **going to get** married next July.
- They’re **going to visit** Amy next week. They made plans to meet up on Monday.
- Peter and Paul are **going to share** an apartment when they move to New York.

**Note:** You can also use the present continuous for the future in these cases.

- On my next vacation, **I’m staying** at a nice hotel in Paris.
- David’s **meeting** me at the airport at 8:00.
- We’re **getting** married next July.

## Use “will/won’t” for promises:

- I’ll send you an e-mail.
- I **won’t** tell anyone your secret.
- He’ll pay you back tomorrow.
- We **won’t** forget your birthday.

## Use “will” for offers:

- I’ll buy you a drink.
- My secretary **will** help you with the paperwork.

## Use “will” for decisions made in that moment:

- “Would you like potatoes or rice?”  
“I’ll have the rice.”
- “Which shirt do you like?”  
“Well, the red one is cheaper, but I prefer the color blue. I’ll take the blue one.”

**You can use either “will/won’t” or “going to” for predictions or general statements about the future:**

- My company’s **going to** move its headquarters overseas next year.  
My company **will** move its headquarters overseas next year.
- Your wife **will** love those flowers – they’re beautiful!  
Your wife’s **going to** love those flowers – they’re beautiful!
- The economy **isn’t going to** improve much this year.  
The economy **won’t** improve much this year.
- He **won’t** pass the test. He hasn’t studied at all.  
He’s **not going to** pass the test. He hasn’t studied at all.

Use **I think... will** and **I don’t think... will** to express thoughts about the future.

Don’t use **I think... won’t**. (it doesn’t sound natural).

- ~~I think you **won’t** like this movie. It’s very violent.~~
- I **don’t** think you’ll like this movie. It’s very violent.

## Will/Won’t vs. Going to Quiz

Click here to take the quiz!

<http://www.espressoenglish.net/grammar-in-use-willwont-vs-going-to#quiz>

## Linking Words: Reasons and Results

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**Linking words** help you connect the ideas in a sentence. In this lesson, you’ll learn some common **linking words** to express **reasons** and **results**.

### Linking Words: Reasons



## Because / Because of

The difference between these two words is that **because** is followed by a **subject + verb**, and **because of** is followed by a noun:

- The game was canceled **because of the rain**.
- The game was canceled **because it was raining**.

In spoken English, many people say '**cause** as a short form of "because."

## Due to / Owing to

**Due to** and **owing to** are also followed by a noun. These words are a little more formal.

There's a lot of traffic today **due to** the upcoming holiday.  
(holiday = noun)

The after-school program was canceled **owing to** lack of interest from the students.  
(lack = noun)

## Due to the fact that / Owing to the fact that

Use these phrases before a **subject + verb**. Again, these phrases are a little more formal.

Many people are still unemployed **due to the fact that** the economic recovery has been slower than anticipated.

The publisher rejected the author's latest work **owing to the fact that** the manuscript was full of errors.

## Since / As

**Since** and **as** are more informal, and they are followed by a **subject + verb**.

- I'm going to bed at 10 PM **since** I need to get up early tomorrow.
- I didn't go to the gym today, **as** I had a lot of homework to do.

## Linking Words: Results

## Therefore / Consequently / As a result

These words are more formal, and are more commonly used in **written English**.

Our company's profits have increased 150% in the past year. **Therefore**, we're going to invest in new equipment and training programs.

The tennis player had knee surgery mid-October; **consequently**, she took the rest of the season off.

There have been heavy rains throughout the interior of the state. **As a result**, several areas have experienced flooding.

## So

"So" is more informal, and more commonly used in **spoken English**.

We were hungry, **so** we stopped at a cafe for a snack.

## Linking Words Quiz: Reasons and Results

Click here to take the quiz!

<http://www.espressoenglish.net/linking-words-in-english-reasons-and-results/#quiz>