

Future Tense

What is Future Tense?

Any action that is scheduled to happen in the future comes under the agenda of the **future tense**. Like any other tense, Future Tense too can be detected by the verb form and the auxiliaries used.

Markers of Future Tense

<i>Tomorrow</i>	<i>Years to come</i>	<i>Coming week</i>	<i>Ensuing year</i>
<i>Next</i>	<i>Next day</i>	<i>Coming month</i>	<i>Following day</i>
<i>Following</i>	<i>Next month</i>	<i>Coming year</i>	<i>Following week</i>
<i>Days to come</i>	<i>Next week</i>	<i>Ensuing week</i>	<i>Following month</i>
<i>Months to come</i>	<i>Next year</i>	<i>Ensuing month</i>	<i>Following year</i>

Future tense also has four forms. However, one of the forms has no practical use.

- Simple Future (Future Indefinite) Tense
- Future Continuous Tense
- Future Perfect Tense
- Future Perfect Continuous Tense

Simple Future (Future Indefinite) Tense

The **simple future tense** is used when an action is promised/ thought to occur in the future. The simple foreseen outcomes are stated in the future indefinite tense. "Shall/will" marks the future indefinite tense.

Structure:

Subject + shall/will + verb +

Example:

- We shall move to another city.
- He will come to New York tomorrow.
- They will make a phone which has artificial intelligence.
- It will rain in the coming hours.
- There will be a hard few days ahead of us.

Note: In some cases, the present progressive tense can be used when an action is promised/arranged/planned to take place in the future.

Example:

- We are moving to Texas next week.
- We are leaving at 6.00 PM.
- They're going to do as you say.
- Dan is meeting me at 9 AM.
- I am hoping to see you soon.

Future Continuous Tense

The future continuous tense is used when an action is promised/thought to be going on at a specific time/context in the future.

Structure:

Subject + shall/will + be + verb+ *ing*

Example:

- I shall be sleeping at around 6.00 AM tomorrow.
- They will be playing at this time tomorrow.
- She will be watching TV when I come home.
- I will be working in the office while you watch a movie.

Future Continuous Tense often adds an extra layer of politeness to normal speech. "Will you be starting to decorate the room today?" is politer and considerate in a manner than the simple "Are you starting to decorate the room today?" which sounds more like a command that is late to be followed.

Future Indefinite Tense vs. Future Continuous Tense

The sentences in Future Indefinite Tense and Future Continuous Tense pose a very similar kind of attitude and some may seem identical in manner. The major difference here is the tone that sets the tenses apart. Let's compare the tone and attitude between them to get a clear idea about how they differ.

Future Indefinite Tense

Ben will take the trash out.
(Just decided)

Will you join us for dinner?
(Invitation)

She will help decorate the house.
(Willing)

Future Continuous Tense

Ben will be taking the trash out. *(Previously decided upon)*

Will you be joining us for dinner? *(Reconfirming possible previous arrangements)*

She will be helping to decorate the house. *(A previous arrangement)*

Future Continuous Tense often hints at possible pre-arrangements where the Simple Future Tense indicates definite decisions, invitations, and willingness.