**Simple Future**

The simple future verb tense has two different forms in English, *will* and *be going to*. Although the two forms can sometimes be used interchangeably, they often express two very different meanings: *will* is used for offers and *be going to* is used for plans. Read on for detailed descriptions, examples, and simple future exercises.

**Simple Future Forms**

**FORM Will**

The *will* form of simple future is made with ***will* + verb**. Questions are indicated by inverting the subject and *will*. Negatives are made with *not*.

* Statement: You **will help** him later.
* Question: **Will** you **help** him later?
* Negative: You **will not help** him later.

**FORM Be Going To**

The *be-going-to* form of simple future is made using ***am/is/are* + *going to* + verb**. Questions are indicated by inverting the subject and *am/is/are*. Negatives are made with *not*.

* Statement: You **are going to meet** Jane tonight.
* Question: **Are** you **going to meet** Jane tonight?
* Negative: You **are not going to meet** Jane tonight.

**Simple Future Uses**

simple future specific time

The simple future (also called future simple or future indefinite) is a verb tense which is used to show that an action will take place at a specific time in the future. The simple future is also used to talk about future habits and future generalizations. In many ways, the verb tense behaves like the simple past.

However, the simple future has two different forms *will* and *be going to*. Study the uses below to learn how to choose between the two forms.

**USE 1 *Will* to Express a Voluntary Action**

*Will* often suggests that a speaker will do something voluntarily. A voluntary action is one the speaker offers to do for someone else. Often, we use *will* to respond to someone else's complaint or request for help. We also use *will* when we request that someone help us or volunteer to do something for us. Similarly, we use *will not* or *won't* when we refuse to do something voluntarily.

Examples:

* I **will send**you the information when I get it.
* I **will translate** the email, so Mr. Smith can read it.
* **Will** you **help** me move this heavy table?
* **Will** you **make** dinner?
* I **will not do** your homework for you.
* I **won't do** all the housework myself!
* A: I'm really hungry.  
  B: I**'ll make** some sandwiches.
* A: I'm so tired. I'm about to fall asleep.  
  B: I**'ll get** you some coffee.
* A: The phone is ringing.  
  B: I**'ll get** it.

**USE 2 *Will* to Express a Promise**

*Will* is usually used in promises.

Examples:

* I **will call** you when I arrive.
* If I am elected President of the United States, I **will make** sure everyone has access to inexpensive health insurance.
* I promise I **will not tell** him about the surprise party.
* Don't worry, I**'ll be** careful.
* I **won't tell** anyone your secret.

**USE 3 *Be going to* to Express a Plan**

*Be going to* expresses that something is a plan. It expresses the idea that a person intends to do something in the future. It does not matter whether the plan is realistic or not.

Examples:

* He **is going to spend** his vacation in Hawaii.
* She **is not going to spend** her vacation in Hawaii.
* A: When **are** we **going to meet** each other tonight?  
  B: We **are going to meet** at 6 PM.
* I**'m going to be** an actor when I grow up.
* Michelle **is going to begin** medical school next year.
* They **are going to drive** all the way to Alaska.
* Who **are** you **going to invite** to the party?
* A: Who **is going to make** John's birthday cake?  
  B: Sue **is going to make** John's birthday cake.

**USE 4 *Will* or *Be Going to* to Express a Prediction**

Both *will* and *be going to* can express the idea of a general prediction about the future. Predictions are guesses about what might happen in the future. In prediction sentences, the subject usually has little control over the future and therefore USES 1-3 do not apply. In the following examples, there is no difference in meaning.

Examples:

* The year 2222 **will be** a very interesting year.
* The year 2222 **is going to be** a very interesting year.
* John Smith **will be** the next President.
* John Smith **is going to be** the next President.
* The movie "Zenith" **will win** several Academy Awards.
* The movie "Zenith" **is going to win** several Academy Awards.

**IMPORTANT**

In the simple future, it is not always clear which USE the speaker has in mind. Often, there is more than one way to interpret a sentence's meaning.

**No Future in Time Clauses**

Like all future forms, the simple future cannot be used in clauses beginning with time expressions such as *when*, *while*, *before*, *after*, *by the time*, *as soon as*, *if*, *unless*, etc. Instead of simple future, [simple present](https://www.englishpage.com/verbpage/simplepresent.html) is used.

Examples:

* When you **will arrive** tonight, we will go out for dinner. ***Not Correct***
* When you **arrive** tonight, we will go out for dinner. ***Correct***

**ADVERB PLACEMENT**

The examples below show the placement for grammar adverbs such as: always, only, never, ever, still, just, etc.

Examples:

* You will **never** help him.
* Will you **ever** help him?
* You are **never** going to meet Jane.
* Are you **ever** going to meet Jane?

**ACTIVE / PASSIVE**

Examples:

* John **will finish** the work by 5:00 PM. *Active*
* The work **will be finished** by 5:00 PM. *Passive*
* Sally **is going to make** a beautiful dinner tonight. *Active*
* A beautiful dinner **is going to be made** by Sally tonight. *Passive*

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