

Future tense: To indicate events in the future

## Will

- Predictions in the future (certain predictions; formal)
  - The clothes will dry today.
  - *Very certain the clothes can be dried by today, but the clothes are NOT dry yet.*
  - **Generally based on personal feeling/beliefs.**
- Simple events in the future
  - The results of the lottery will be announced online.
  - *The results of the lottery are not out yet*
- Decisions made on the fly (not pre-planned; dreams and grand plans)
  - I will have a cup of orange juice please.
  - *I just decided what I want for drinks*
  - We will build a big casino here!
  - *Plans and drafts have not yet been made, but the intention is there*
- Making offers/refusals
  - I will turn on the lights for you
  - I will not cheat in the exam

## Shall

- Making offers/refusals
  - Shall we go out tonight?
  - We shall not proceed with this plan.
- Shall is basically the future form of 'should'

## Be going to

- Predictions in the future (certain predictions; informal)
  - The engine sounds weird. The car is going to break in the next year.
  - *Fairly certain that the car will break, e.g. the engine sounds abnormal.*
  - **Backed by concrete evidence.**
- Pre-planned decisions about events in the future (informal)
  - I am going to take the MTR to get to the event venue.
  - *You've already searched for the route*
  - We are going to build a casino here.
  - *The decision has been made and work has started.*

## Present continuous

- Pre-planned decisions about events in the future (formal)
- Arrangements have been made, so any event involving more than 1 party falls in this category.
- Make sure you include a point-of-time in the future, or else it just describes what's going on now.
  - I am taking the plane to Shanghai tomorrow
  - *You've already bought the plane tickets (and maybe even checked in!)*
- Yes, that means in these cases, present continuous is interchangeable with 'going to'.

## Present simple

- Events in the future that are a part of a fixed timetable (You have little control over it)
- Make sure you include a point-of-time in the future.
  - The sun rises at 5:49 am tomorrow.
  - *Obviously, you can't control the sun and we precisely know when it rises and sets*
- In this case you are really just stating facts, so that's like the typical usage of simple present tense.

## Questions

If we are asking questions, we determine the future tense base on the type of event in question.

e.g. When do you take your IELTS exam?

*The IELTS exam has a **fixed timetable**, this implies the person already has booked an exam timeslot.*

e.g. Will Nintendo sue me if I make a funny video about Pokémon? (or)

e.g. Is Nintendo going to send me the shadow realm for this parody? (informal)

*Asking for whether **an event will happen in the future**.*

e.g. Are you visiting the library on Friday?

*Asking about **pre-planned actions**.*

## Flowchart to recap everything



## Questions to work on

1. What time \_\_\_\_\_ (the train/leave) tomorrow?
2. I \_\_\_\_\_ (visit) my grandparents next weekend.
3. She \_\_\_\_\_ (probably/come) to the party tonight.
4. They \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a meeting at 10 AM on Monday to discuss about the latest product launch.
5. Look at those dark clouds! It \_\_\_\_\_ (rain) soon.
6. We \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the cinema this evening.
7. The concert \_\_\_\_\_ (start) at 8 PM.
8. I just saw this upcoming sale! I think I \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) a new laptop next month.
9. He \_\_\_\_\_ (play) football with his friends after school.
10. The plane \_\_\_\_\_ (take off) at 6:30 AM.

Some more...

Alex: Hey Jamie, what \_\_\_\_\_ **(do)** this weekend?

Jamie: I'm not sure yet. I might play the new video game I just bought. What about you?

Alex: I \_\_\_\_\_ **(try)** out that new multiplayer game everyone is talking about.

Jamie: That sounds fun! By the way, did you hear that Sarah \_\_\_\_\_ **(get)** the latest gaming console next Friday?

Alex: Really? That's awesome! Do you know what time the store opens?

Jamie: I think it \_\_\_\_\_ **(begin)** at 10 AM. \_\_\_\_\_ **(attend)** the gaming tournament tonight?

Alex: Yes, I guess you will come as well, so I \_\_\_\_\_ **(see)** you there. What time does it start?

Jamie: It \_\_\_\_\_ **(start)** at 7 PM. Are you going to bring your controller?

Alex: I'm bringing my controller and headset. Do you think it \_\_\_\_\_ **(be)** crowded?

Jamie: The organiser said more than 2000 people are coming, so I \_\_\_\_\_ **(arrive)** early to get a good seat.

Alex: Good idea. By the way, I heard that Tom is taking a break from gaming before starting university.

Jamie: Yes, he is. He's planning to focus on his studies.

Alex: That's smart! I \_\_\_\_\_ **(meet)** him online for a game this afternoon. Do you want to join us?

Jamie: Sure, I'd love to!

## Answers

1. What time does the train leave tomorrow? (*fixed timetable*)
2. I am going to visit my grandparents this weekend. //  
I am visiting my grandparents this weekend. (*Pre-planned event in the future*)
3. She will probably come to the party tonight. (*Probable event in the future based on personal beliefs*)
4. They are having / are going to have a meeting at 10 AM on Monday to discuss about the latest product launch. (*Pre-planned event in the future*)
5. Look at these dark clouds! It is going to rain soon. (*Prediction based on evidence*)
6. We are going to / are going to go to (this sounds stupid) the cinema this evening. (*Pre-planned events*)
7. The concert starts at 8 PM (*Fixed timetable*)
8. I just saw the upcoming sale! I think I will buy a new laptop next month (*Decision made on the fly*)
9. He is playing/ is going to play football with his friends after school. (*Pre-planned events*)
10. The plane takes off at 6:30 AM (*Fixed timetable*)

## Dialogue section

1. Are you doing (*Pre-planned actions*)
2. Am going to try // am trying (*Pre-planned actions*)
3. Is getting (pre-planned actions)
4. Opens (*Fixed timetable*)
5. Are you attending / Are you going to attend (*Pre-planned actions*)
6. Will see (*Prediction based on personal beliefs*)
7. Starts (*Fixed timetable*)
8. Are you bringing / Are you going to bring (*Pre-planned actions*)
9. Will be (*Asking about prediction based on personal belief*)
10. am going to arrive / am arriving (*pre-planned events*)
11. am meeting / am going to meet (*pre-planned events*)

## Future perfect tense

Construction:

Will have + past participle

e.g. I will have finished my university degree by 2027.

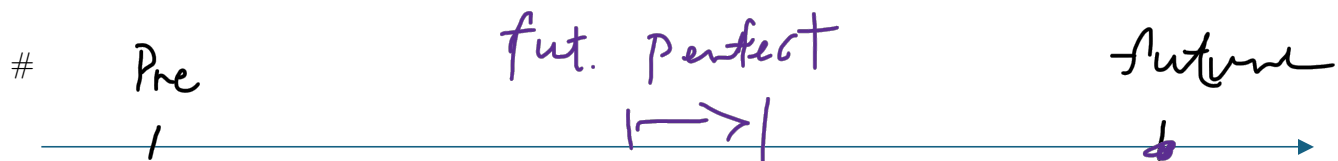
Usage: Describe something that will be completed before a specific point of time in the future.

e.g. I will have finished my university degree by 2027.

*I finish my university degree on/before 2027.*

e.g. The building will have been constructed 3 years later.

*The building will be completed and opened 3 years later.*



Completion of action before another event

e.g. The badminton team will have finished their training session before the volleyball team starts playing.

*The badminton team is still training. The badminton team will finish training before the volleyball team's sessions starts.*

Predictions about the future \*(related to completed events)

e.g. He will have finished his homework by 5pm

*It's not yet 5pm, but when it is 5pm, his homework is finished.*

Once again, for all future perfect tense, you have to include a specific point in time in the future.