

Will/shall 2

A

We do not use **will** to say what somebody has already arranged or decided to do:

- ☐ Diane **is working** next week. (*not* Diane will work)
 - ☐ **Are you going to watch** anything on TV this evening? (*not* Will you watch)
- For '**is working**' and '**Are you going to ... ?**', see Units 19–20.

But often, when we talk about the future, we are *not* talking about what somebody has decided to do. For example:

Kate is doing an exam next week. Chris and Joe are talking about it.

Do you think Kate **will pass** the exam?

CHRIS



Yes, she'll **pass** easily.



JOE

She'll pass does *not* mean 'she has decided to pass'. Joe is saying what he knows or believes will happen.

He is *predicting* the future.

When we predict a future happening or situation, we use **will/won't**.

Some more examples:

- ☐ They've been away a long time. When they return, they'll **find** a lot of changes here.
- ☐ 'Where **will** you **be** this time next year?' 'I'll **be** in Japan.'
- ☐ That plate is hot. If you touch it, you'll **burn** yourself.
- ☐ Tom **won't pass** the exam. He hasn't studied hard enough.
- ☐ Anna looks completely different now. You **won't recognise** her.
- ☐ When **will** you **get** your exam results?

B

We often use **will** ('ll) with:

probably

(I'm) **sure**

(I) **think**

(I) **don't think**

I **wonder**

- ☐ I'll **probably** be home late tonight.
- ☐ Don't worry about the exam. I'm **sure** you'll pass.
- ☐ Do you **think** Sarah **will** like the present we bought her?
- ☐ I **don't think** the exam **will** be very difficult.
- ☐ I **wonder** what **will** happen.

After **I hope**, we generally use the present (**will** is also possible):

- ☐ I hope Kate **passes** the exam. (*or* I hope Kate **will pass** ...)
- ☐ I hope it **doesn't rain** tomorrow.

C

Generally we use **will** to talk about *the future*, but sometimes we use **will** to talk about *now*.

For example:

- ☐ Don't phone Ann now. She'll **be** busy. (= she'll be busy *now*)

D

I shall ... / we shall ...

Normally we use **shall** only with **I** and **we**. You can say:

I shall or I will (I'll) **we shall or we will** (we'll)

- ☐ I **shall** be late this evening. (*or* I **will** be)
- ☐ **We shall** probably go to France in June. (*or* We **will** probably go)

In spoken English we normally use **I'll** and **we'll**:

- ☐ **We'll** probably go to France.

The negative of **shall** is **shall not** or **shan't**:

- ☐ I **shan't** be here tomorrow. (*or* I **won't** be)

Do not use **shall** with **he/she/it/you/they**:

- ☐ She **will** be very angry. (*not* She **shall** be)