

GRAMMAR

Present continuous for future arrangements

LEVEL

Elementary (A2)

NUMBER

EN_A2_2053G

LANGUAGE

English

Learning outcomes

- I can make future arrangements using the present continuous.
- I can determine when to use 'will', 'be going to' and the present continuous when talking about future plans.



Warm-up

**What are you going
to do after class
today?**

**Share your answer with the
rest of the class!**





Review: the present continuous tense

- We form the **present continuous tense** with ***to be*** in the present and an ***-ing verb***.

pronoun	<i>to be</i> in the present	<i>-ing verb</i>
I	am	eating
you, we, they	are	eating
he, she, it,	is	eating

Review: the present continuous tense

- There are **three** primary uses for the **present continuous tense**:
 - something happening right now for a short time
 - something happening for a longer time but still temporary
 - talking about future arrangements

right now	temporary	future arrangements
I am taking the bus.	I am taking the bus while my car is getting fixed.	I am taking the bus with Sarah to work tomorrow.
I am having dinner in a restaurant.	I am having dinner in restaurants until my kitchen is repaired.	I am having dinner with my mum on Sunday.
We are visiting Australia. We're at the Sydney Opera House!	We are visiting Australia until the new store opens. Once it opens, we won't come as often.	We are visiting Australia in June for the store's grand opening.



Categorise

Are these sentences talking about **present** actions or **future** arrangements?

- 1 I'm visiting New York City with my sister in December!
- 2 My boss is hiring a new assistant next month when James retires.
- 3 David is washing the dishes.
- 4 Martha's daughter is starting university next week.
- 5 William's moving to Hawaii next year.
- 6 I am ice skating at the Rockefeller Center when I visit New York in December.

present actions

future arrangements



What are you doing...

Use the present continuous tense to talk about your plans.

...tomorrow?

...this evening?

...at the
weekend?

...next month?



Review: *will* and *to be going to*

- We use ***will*** or ***to be going to*** with a **bare infinitive** to talk about the future.

subject	<i>will / be going to</i>	verb
I	<i>will</i>	work on Monday
You	<i>will</i>	work on Tuesday
We	<i>are going to</i>	catch the bus.
He	<i>is going to</i>	drive his car.
They	<i>are going to</i>	take a taxi.

Comparing different future tense structures

- We use **will** to make general statements of fact about the future, and to make predictions.
- We use **to be going to** for future intentions we have already thought about ourselves.
- We use the **present continuous** for future arrangements we have already talked about with someone else.

structure and use	example
will: future statement of fact	My wife will be in Japan for a business meeting next week.
will: prediction	In 15 years, cars will drive themselves.
to be going to: future intentions	I'm going to look for a better job.
present continuous: future arrangements	Meg and I are eating at a Mexican restaurant tonight.



Categorise

Categorise the statements into one of the boxes below.



1

Teachers will be replaced by robots.

2

She's meeting me at five o'clock.

3

We're watching a film after dinner.

4

The economy will grow next year.

5

I'm going to make spaghetti soon.

6

He's driving on Saturday, and I'm driving on Sunday.

7

Singapore will be the most important financial centre.

8

I'm going to leave work early today.

9

He's going to find out how much it costs.

predictions

intentions

arrangements



Future arrangements

Use the present continuous to talk about future arrangements.

1 Last Monday, I made spaghetti for dinner.



***Next Monday, I'm making** tacos for dinner.*

2 Last Tuesday, we ate at a Greek restaurant.



3 Last Wednesday, they went skiing.



4 Last Thursday, my boss left work late.



5 Last Friday, we watched a romantic comedy.



6 Last Sunday, we drove to the mountains.





I will graduate in a
fortnight.

A **fortnight** is a period of 14 days.



I'm going on holiday!

1. **Imagine** you've made holiday plans next week.
2. In breakout rooms or together as a class, **talk** about your future arrangements and plans for your holiday.

Where are you going?

How are you getting there?

When are you returning?

Where are you staying there?

What are you going to do there?

What are you going to eat there?



Discuss

**Do you have a diary?
Why or why not?**



**Complete this
sentence:
*In 3 years, I will...***



End of the lesson

Idiom

eager beaver

Meaning: an enthusiastic person who works very hard

Example: He was a real eager beaver when he started his job.



Additional practice

Fill in the gaps

Fill in the gaps with the correct word.

I'm so excited about visiting New York City with my sister, Jane, in December! We're flying out in mid-December and returning on Christmas Eve. We're _____ two Broadway shows that week, and we're _____ at The Hard Rock Café on Wednesday. We're _____ at the Rockefeller Center, and we're _____ the Staten Island ferry past the Statue of Liberty. On our last day, Jane's _____ a friend for lunch, but I'm _____ the subway out to Coney Island because Jane doesn't really want to see the amusement park.



taking

eating

riding

seeing

meeting

ice
skating



Complete the dialogue

Complete the dialogue with the correct form of **to be**.

Steven: Do you know where you _____ going on holiday this year Dave?

Dave: Yes, we _____ going to Italy, and my sister _____ staying in our house while we are away.

Steven: Where _____ you staying in Italy?

Dave: My wife _____ staying the first few days with her cousin in Rome. I _____ visiting my friend in Florence. Then we _____ meeting in Sicily.

Steven: What _____ you going to do in Sicily?

Dave: Oh, definitely just relaxing! We _____ going to a fancy restaurant one night – we just want to eat great food and sleep most of the time!





What are you going to do?

What are you going to do on these days?

Complete the sentences below with your own ideas.

1 On Monday, I...



am going to clean the kitchen.

2 On Tuesday, I...



3 On Wednesday, I...



4 On Friday, I...



5 On Saturday, I...



6 On Sunday, I...





Answer key

P.6:

Present arrangement: 3

Future arrangement: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6

P.10:

Predictions: 1, 4, 7

Intentions: 5, 8, 9

Arrangements: 2, 3, 6

P.18: seeing, eating, ice skating, taking, meeting, riding

P.19:

Steven: are

Dave: are, is

Steven: are

Dave: is, am, are

Steven: are

Dave: are



Summary

Reviewing the present continuous

- We form the **present continuous tense** with **to be** in the present + **-ing form** of the main verb.
- We use for the present continuous tense for 1) something happening **right now** for a short time; 2) something happening for longer, but still **temporary**; 3) for **future arrangements**.

Reviewing *will* and *be going to*:

- We use **will** or **to be going to** with a **bare infinitive** to talk about the future.
- *It **will** be sunny later.*
- *I **am going to** catch the bus.*

Comparing the future tenses

- We use **will** to make general statements of fact about the future, and to make predictions.
- **Fact:** *My wife **will be** in Japan for a business meeting next week.*
- **Prediction:** *In 15 years, cars **will drive themselves**.*

Comparing future tenses

- We use **to be going to** for future intentions, e.g. *I **am going to look for a better job**.*
- We use the **present continuous** for future arrangements we have already made. e.g. *Meg and I **are eating** at a Mexican restaurant tonight.*



Vocabulary

to fix

to repair

grand opening

to ice skate

to look for

