

GRAMMAR

Advanced structures to talk about the future

LEVEL

Upper-Intermediate
(B2)

NUMBER

EN_B2_2062G

LANGUAGE

English



Learning outcomes

- I can identify and use some advanced structures to talk about the immediate future.
- I can use 'be supposed to' and 'be meant to' to talk about intentions or expectations.



Warm-up

**When was the last time
you were about to do
something and then were
interrupted?**

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



Review: *The future continuous and the future perfect*

Review the information below.

The future continuous tense is used to talk about **actions** which will be **in progress** at a given point in the future.

It is formed by **will be + ing**.

- *This time next week I **will be sitting** on the beach.*
- *Tomorrow at 6pm I'll **be watching** the rugby game.*

We can use the **future continuous tense** in questions to ask about expectations.

- ***Will he be** staying home?*
- ***Will you be** seeing Alice later?*



The future perfect tense is used to talk about something that will be **done** before a given point in the future.

It is formed by **will have + past participle**.

- *I **will have eaten** all of the chocolate by the time my wife gets home.*
- *I promise I **will have finished** my homework by dinnertime.*
- *I **won't have finished** my project before the end of May.*
- *I **won't have finished** cooking dinner before the guests arrive.*



Fill in the gaps

Complete the sentences using either the **future continuous** or the **future perfect**.

- 1 On Friday at 5pm I _____ (celebrate) the fact that the work week is over!
- 2 This time next week my wife and I _____ (relax) by the pool in Italy.
- 3 By the time I am 40, I _____ (get married).
- 4 This time next year, I _____ (still learn) English grammar.
- 5 By the time I am 70, I _____ (learn) all the grammar properly.



Speaking

In breakout rooms or together as a class, **tell your classmates** what you will be doing at these times in the future.

a week from
today

next Friday
evening

tomorrow at
the same time

at 10 pm this
evening





My cousin stayed with me for a **fortnight**.

A **fortnight** is a period of 14 days, or two weeks.

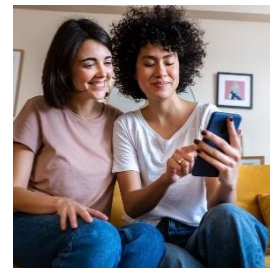
What will you be doing over the next **fortnight**?

Be about to and be on the point of

Review the information in the blue boxes.

Be about to

- Used to talk about something that is **going to happen** or is **expected to happen very soon**.
- Can be used with the **past tense** as well as with the **present tense**. In the **past tense**, it indicates that something was going to happen.



Be on the point of

- Also used to talk about something that is **expected to happen very soon**.
- Normally used with **people** rather than things.
- Also used with the **past tense**.

- *She **is about to** confess everything.*
- *Hurry up! The boat **is about to** leave!*
- *I **was about to** call you.*
- *We **are on the point of** leaving—can you make it quick?*
- *He **was on the point of** stealing the car but the police caught him.*





Fill in the gaps

Complete the sentences using either ***be about to*** or ***be on the point of***.

- 1 I _____ leaving the house. Can I call you back?
- 2 She _____ give her graduation speech.
- 3 They _____ start university.
- 4 We _____ finishing the report.
- 5 I _____ call my mum. Do you want me to wish her happy birthday from you?



Discuss

Answer the questions below.

What are you about to do?



What are you on the point of doing?

What are you and your classmates about to do?

Be supposed to and be meant to

- **Be supposed to** and **be meant to** can be used to talk about **intentions** or **expectations**.
- **Be supposed to** and **be meant to** use the **infinitive**.
 - I **am supposed to meet** him at 2 pm.
 - I **am meant to visit** my sister this weekend.
- We form the negative by adding **not**: **be not supposed to/be not meant to**

be to supposed to/be meant to

They **are supposed to have** a meeting later today.

I **am supposed to drive** my brother to the airport.

She **is meant to give** a presentation on Friday.

We **are meant to watch** the film tomorrow.

be not supposed to/be not meant to

They **are not supposed to have** a meeting later today.

I **am not supposed to drive** my brother to the airport.

She **is not meant to give** a presentation on Friday.

We **are not meant to watch** the film tomorrow.



Create sentences

Create sentences using the information in parentheses.

- 1 Invite the new neighbours over on Friday
(**we; be meant to**)



We are meant to invite the new neighbours over on Friday.

- 2 Watch the movie next week (**I; be supposed to**)



- 3 Swim in the ocean on Tuesday (**you; be not meant to**)



- 4 Visit close friends soon (**he; be meant to**)



- 5 Book a holiday tomorrow (**she; be supposed to**)



- 6 Take the children to the swimming pool today (**we; be not supposed to**)





Discuss

Answer the questions below.

**What is something you
are supposed to do this
week?**



**What is something you
are meant to do this
month?**



End of the lesson

Idiom

get ahead of yourself

Meaning: acting or planning for something too early, or overconfidently

Example: We got a bit ahead of ourselves in that last game. We've made some progress, but not as much as we thought.



Additional practice



Fill in the gaps

Complete the sentences using either ***be about to*** or ***be on the point of***.

1 I _____ call you, when you called me! What a coincidence!

2 She _____ leaving when her boss asked her to stay.

3 They _____ drive to the supermarket.

4 We _____ closing the deal.

5 I _____ drive home. Do you need a lift?



Complete the sentences

Complete the sentences with your own ideas.



On Friday at 6 pm, I will be...

In two weeks from now, I will have...

This time next month, I will be...

By 2030, I will have...



Discuss

Answer the questions below.

What are some things you are supposed to do by the end of the day at work ?



What are some things you are not meant to do today?



Answer key

P.5: 1.) will be celebrating 2.) will be relaxing 3.) will have gotten 4.) will still be learning 5.) will have learned

P.9: 1.) am on the point of 2.) is about to/was about to 3.) are about to/were about to 4.) are on the point of/were on the point of 5.) am about to

P.12:

2.) I am supposed to watch the movie next week.

3.) You are not meant to swim in the ocean on Tuesday.

4.) He is meant to visit close friends soon.

5.) She is supposed to book a holiday tomorrow.

6.) We are not supposed to take the children to the swimming pool today.

P.17: 1.) was about to 2.) was on the point of leaving 3.) are about to/were about to 4.) are on the point of/were on the point of 5.) am about to



Summary

Reviewing the future continuous

- Used to talk about **actions** which will be **in progress** at a given point in the future. It is formed by **will be + ing form**. e.g. *This time next week I **will be sitting** on the beach.*
- We can use it in questions to ask about **expectations**, e.g., *Will you be seeing Alice later?*

Reviewing the future perfect

- Used to talk about something that will be **done** before a given point in the future.
- It is formed by **will have + past participle**.
- *I **will have eaten** all of the chocolate by the time my wife gets home.*

Be about to and be on the point of

- Used to talk about something that is **going to happen** or is **expected to happen very soon**.
- Both can be used with the **past tense** as well to mean something was going to happen.
- *I **was about to** call you. We **are on the point of** leaving—can you make it quick?*

Be supposed to and be meant to

- **Be supposed to** and **be meant to** can be used to talk about **intentions** or **expectations**. We use the **infinitive**: *I am supposed to **meet** him at 2 pm.*
- We form the negative by adding **not**: be **not** supposed to/be **not** meant to



Vocabulary

to interrupt

fortnight

to confess

to hand in

on duty



Notes