

# Grammar Reference

## Ways of talking about the future

1) We use **will** for statements about the future, and for **predictions** about the future. It often expresses the future as fact – so it's used for very strong opinions or predictions. It can also be used for **instant decisions** made at the time of speaking.

*In 100 years' time, everyone **will have** an electric car.*

2) **Be going to** is used for present situations that extend into the future, or for something you want to do. There is often present evidence for the prediction.

*The government **is going to raise** fuel taxes.*

3) The **present continuous** is used for arrangements. It's very similar to going to for intention.

*I'm **cooking** for six guests next week.*

4) The **present simple** is used for timetabled events.

*The meal **starts** at six.*

5) In addition, we can use **be about to** talk about that will happen in the near future.

*Quick, the film **is about to start**!*

*We're **about to leave**. Get on the bus.*

6) Some normal verbs also indicate plans and intentions for the future.

*I **plan** to study photography next year.*

*I **aim** to be finished by 8pm.*

*Mark **intends** to move to Berlin.*

*We've **arranged** to meet next Monday.*

*She **decided** to take the train tomorrow.*

### Form

**Will:** subject + will + infinitive

**Be going to:** subject + am/are/is going to + base form of verb

**Present continuous:** subject + am/are/is + ing form of verb

**Present simple:** subject + verb

**About to:** subject + am/are/is about to + base form

**Normal verbs:** use as usual, followed by to + base form of verb

