

## ● Future time / present tenses in time clauses / prepositions of time and place

### Expressing the future: will/won't and be going to

There is sometimes little difference in meaning between **will** and **be going to**. It is often just a matter of formality. **Will** is generally more formal than **be going to**.

Use	Example
Facts about the future	<i>The website <b>will</b> come online next week. (more formal)</i> <i>The website's <b>going to</b> come online next week. (more informal)</i>
Predictions not based on present evidence	<i>In the future, everyone <b>will</b> have their own flying car. (more formal)</i> <i>In the future, everyone <b>is going to</b> have their own flying car. (more informal)</i>
Decisions made at the moment of speaking	<i>I've decided! I <b>won't</b> get a new DVD player just yet. (emphasising the decision)</i> <i>I've decided! I'm <b>not going to</b> get a new DVD player just yet. (emphasising the intention)</i>

Sometimes it is more appropriate to use **will** rather than **be going to**.

Use	Example
Offers and suggestions	<i>I'll help you with your physics homework, if you like.</i>
Requests	<i><b>Will</b> you help me with my physics homework?</i>
Most first conditional sentences	<i>If we get a computer, we'll be able to surf the Internet.</i>

**Watch out!**

- With offers and suggestions in the question form, we do not use **will** with *I* and *we*. We use **shall**.  
✓ **Shall** I help you with your physics homework?  
X ~~**Will** I help you with your physics homework?~~

Sometimes it is more appropriate to use **be going to** rather than **will**.

Use	Example
Plans and intentions (which you already have when you speak)	<i>I'm <b>going to</b> be a famous doctor one day!</i>
Predictions based on present evidence	<i>It sounds like the plane's <b>going to</b> take off in a few minutes.</i>

### Expressing the future: present continuous

Use	Example
Arrangements made before the moment of speaking	<i><b>Are they installing</b> the new computers next week?</i>

### Expressing the future: present simple

Use	Example
Timetables, arrangements and fixed events (which the speaker cannot change)	<i>The bus to the science museum <b>leaves</b> at 8 o'clock tomorrow morning.</i>
After <i>if</i> in first conditional and zero conditional sentences	<i>If technology <b>continues</b> to advance so quickly, what will life be like in a hundred years?</i>
After certain time expressions (see below)	<i>We'll find out as soon as we <b>get</b> to the lab.</i>