

# FUTURE TENSES

<b>FUTURE SIMPLE</b> decisions, promises, offers, predictions <i>I <b>will study</b> tomorrow.</i>	<b>SHALL</b> future intentions, offers <i>I <b>shall study</b> tomorrow.</i>	<b>BE GOING TO</b> intentions/plans, predictions with evidence <i>I <b>am going to study</b> tomorrow.</i>
<b>PRESENT CONTINUOUS</b> definite arrangements <i>I <b>am studying</b> tomorrow at 9 AM.</i>	<b>FUTURE CONTINUOUS</b> actions in progress at a future time <i>I <b>will be studying</b> at 8 PM tomorrow.</i>	<b>PRESENT SIMPLE</b> timetabled events <i>I <b>study</b> at 8 PM.</i>
<b>FUTURE PERFECT SIMPLE</b> actions completed before a certain future time <i>I <b>will have studied</b> by the time you arrive.</i>		<b>FUTURE PERFECT CONTINUOUS</b> duration of an action until a future time <i>I <b>will have been studying</b> for three hours by the time you arrive.</i>

## FUTURE SIMPLE

### Formation:

#### + AFFIRMATIVE

S + will + V<sub>1</sub> ⇒ I/You/We/They/He/She/It + will + study.

*I will go to the party.*

#### - NEGATIVE

S + will not (won't) + V<sub>1</sub> ⇒ I/You/We/They/He/She/It + will not (won't) + study.

*She won't come to the meeting.*

#### ? INTERROGATIVE

Will + S + V<sub>1</sub> ⇒ Will + I/you/we/they/he/she/it + study?

*Will you help me?*

### Usage:

The Future Simple tense is used to express...

**INSTANT DECISIONS** - to make decisions at the moment of speaking

*I'm thirsty. I will drink some water.*

*'Oh, we don't have sugar.' 'Don't worry, I'll buy some.'*

**PREDICTIONS** (not based on evidence)

*It will rain tomorrow.*

**SUBJECTIVE OPINION** - to talk about things that we think will happen in the future

*He will love your new coat.*

*They won't win their next match.*

\* common expressions: I think, I don't think, I hope, I'm sure, I'm not sure, perhaps...

*I hope they will arrive soon.*

*I don't think they'll win.  
I'm sure you'll be fine.  
Perhaps I'll be late.*

### PROMISES

*I will call you later.  
He will lend him the money.*

### OFFERS AND REFUSALS

*I will help you with your homework.  
I won't help you.*

## SHALL

### Formation:

#### + AFFIRMATIVE

S + shall + V<sub>1</sub> ⇒ I/You/We/They/He/She/It + shall + study.  
*I shall go to the meeting tomorrow.*

#### - NEGATIVE

S + shall not (shan't) + V<sub>1</sub> ⇒ I/You/We/They/He/She/It + shall not (shan't) + study.  
*We shall not leave until the work is complete.*

#### ? INTERROGATIVE

Shall + S + V<sub>1</sub> ⇒ Shall + I/you/we/they/he/she/it + study?  
*Shall I open the window?*

### Usage:

Shall is used to express...

**OFFERS** - to offer help or to do things for other people

*I'll make some coffee. ≠ Shall I make some coffee? = Do you want me to make coffee?  
Shall I help you with your homework?*

**SUGGESTIONS** - to make suggestions especially in polite or formal contexts

*We'll go to the cinema. ≠ Shall we go to the cinema? = Do you want to go to the cinema?  
Shall we go for a walk?*

**ADVICE** - to seek guidance or advice

*Shall I call you later?*

**INSTRUCTIONS** - to ask for instructions about what to do in the future

*What shall we do next?*

**PROMISES AND DETERMINATION** (in more formal or legal contexts)

*You shall receive your package by tomorrow.  
You shall receive the report by Monday.*

**OBLIGATIONS** - it is often found in contracts or regulations

*The tenant shall pay the rent on the first of the month.*

The committee shall issue a report by the end of the month.

## FORMAL INTENTIONS

*I shall attend the meeting tomorrow morning.*

*I shall return your book tomorrow.*

## WILL

### FUTURE ACTIONS OR INTENTIONS

used in modern, everyday English for most future contexts, regardless of the subject (I/You/We/They/He/She/It...)

*We will meet again soon.*

## SHALL

used in formal, old-fashioned or traditional contexts (especially in British English) primarily with "I" and "We" (though it can be used with other subjects for certain legal or formal purposes)

*We shall meet again soon.*

## BE GOING TO

### Formation:

#### + AFFIRMATIVE

S + am/is/are + going to + V<sub>1</sub> ⇒ I/You/We/They/He/She/It + am/is/are + going to + study.

*I am going to visit my grandmother next week.*

#### - NEGATIVE

S + am/is/are not + going to + V<sub>1</sub> ⇒ I/You/We/They/He/She/It + am/is/are not + going to + study.

*They aren't going to travel this summer.*

#### ? INTERROGATIVE

Am/Is/Are + S + going to + V<sub>1</sub> ⇒ Am/Is/Are + I/You/We/They/He/She/It + going to + study?

*Are you going to apply for that job?*

### Usage:

Be Going To is used to express...

**INTENTIONS AND PLANS** - decisions taken before the moment of speaking

*I am going to start a new course.*

*He's going to go for a swim.*

\* When the main verb is **go**, we can exclude it if we want.

*I'm going to go shopping this afternoon. = I'm going shopping this afternoon.*

*We are going to go to Cyprus next summer. = We are going to Cyprus next summer.*

**PREDICTIONS** - to talk about something we see is going to happen (based on present evidence)

*Look at the clouds! It is going to rain.*

*The doctor said I'm going to have a girl.*

## WILL

### PREDICTIONS

## BE GOING TO

to talk about something that you think will happen

*We need to hurry up. We'll be late for the lesson.*

**= I think we will be late.**

CORRECT: "I think it will rain tomorrow."

decisions that you take at the moment of speaking

- *She said she needs to talk to you.*  
- *Oh, I didn't know. I'll call her in a minute.*  
**= I took the decision while having this conversation.**

INCORRECT: "I will visit my grandmother next week." - intention

to talk about something that you see is going to happen (there is a present evidence)

*The lesson starts in 10 minutes. We are going to be late.*

**= I can see that we cannot be at the lesson in 10 minutes.**

INCORRECT: "I think it is going to rain tomorrow."  
- prediction without evidence

## DECISIONS

decisions that you have already taken at the moment of speaking

- *She said she needs to talk to you.*  
- *Yes, I know. I'm going to call her in a minute.*  
**= I took the decision before having this conversation.**

CORRECT: "I am going to visit my grandmother next week."

## PRESENT CONTINUOUS

### Formation:

#### + AFFIRMATIVE

S + am/is/are + V<sub>ing</sub> ⇒ I/You/We/They/He/She/It + am/is/are + studying.

*We are meeting them at 7 PM tomorrow.*

#### - NEGATIVE

S + am/is/are not + V<sub>ing</sub> ⇒ I/You/We/They/He/She/It + am/is/are not + studying.

*He isn't leaving for the airport until noon.*

#### ? INTERROGATIVE

Am/Is/Are + S + V<sub>ing</sub> ⇒ Am/Is/Are + I/you/we/they/he/she/it + studying?

*Are you coming to the party tonight?*

### Usage:

The Present Continuous tense is used to express...

**DEFINITE, ARRANGED PLANS / FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS** - to talk about the future, especially about future plans when we have decided a time and a place with other people. We normally use a future time expression, e.g. tomorrow, next week, at 7, etc.

*I am flying to New York next Monday.*

*I'm meeting Sally at 7. (=I have talked to her and we have arranged to meet.)*

*I'm flying to New York tomorrow morning. (=I have the ticket.)*

*We're getting married next July. (=We have decided it and we have probably already made reservations for the restaurant, etc.)*

\* common with verbs of travelling, and when we are meeting people.  
*I'm leaving very early tomorrow. I'm taking the 7.30 train.*  
*I'm playing golf with Jack next Saturday. Would you like to come?*  
*I'm seeing the dentist after class.*

## FUTURE CONTINUOUS

### Formation:

#### + AFFIRMATIVE

S + will be + V<sub>ing</sub> ⇒ I/You/We/They/He/She/It + will be + studying.

*This time tomorrow, I will be flying to Paris.*

#### - NEGATIVE

S + will not (won't) be + V<sub>ing</sub> ⇒ I/You/We/They/He/She/It + will not (won't) be + studying.

*They won't be watching the movie at 8 PM.*

#### ? INTERROGATIVE

Will + S + be + V<sub>ing</sub> ⇒ Will + I/you/we/they/he/she/it + be + studying?

*Will you be attending the meeting tomorrow?*

### Usage:

The Future Continuous tense is used to express...

**ACTION IN PROGRESS** - situations that will be in progress at a certain time in the future

*At 10 PM, I will be sleeping.*

*This time next week, we'll be travelling to Paris.*

*Tomorrow at 10, you'll be doing your exam.*

*When you get off the train, I'll be waiting on the platform.*

*In two months' time, we'll be lying on the beach and drinking a mojito.*

**POLITE INQUIRIES** - a polite way of asking about someone's plans for the future, without assuming a fixed schedule, or to predict an action that will likely be in progress.

*Will she be visiting her friends next weekend?*

*Will you be studying tomorrow at 10 AM?*

\* common time expressions: this time... (this time tomorrow, this time next week...), when..., at + time... (at 7 tomorrow, at midday...), in... (in 2 weeks, in 3 months' time, in 5 years...)

### FUTURE CONTINUOUS

a less certain or less fixed action in progress at a future point or decision to do something

*We will be attending the conference at 10 AM on Friday.*

### BE GOING TO

future intentions or predictions based on current evidence

*We are going to attend the conference next Friday. ⇒ **an***

### PRESENT CONTINUOUS

fixed or definite plans that have already been arranged in the near future

*We are attending the conference next Friday. ⇒ **it is***

⇒ the focus is on the action happening at that specific time

At 3 PM, I will be meeting my professor. ⇒ the action is expected to be happening, but it may not necessarily be scheduled like Present Continuous

Tomorrow at 5 PM, I will be studying with John. ⇒ emphasizes that at 5 PM tomorrow, the action of studying will be in progress, ongoing. It might not be a pre-arranged meeting but is expected to happen

\*emphasises the ongoing nature of the action at a future time, rather than its completion

intention, but it might not be fully arranged yet

I am going to visit the museum. ⇒ intends to do it, but may not have arranged it firmly

I'm going to wash my car tomorrow. ⇒ an intention, but I haven't arranged to do it yet

already scheduled, there may be tickets or registration

She is meeting her professor next Tuesday. ⇒ a confirmed arrangement

I am studying with John tomorrow at 5 PM. ⇒ a definite plan or arrangement for tomorrow

INCORRECT: "I will meet him at 6 PM."

CORRECT: "I am meeting him at 6 PM." - fixed arrangement

## PRESENT SIMPLE

### Formation:

#### + AFFIRMATIVE

S + V<sub>1/-s/-es</sub> ⇒ I/You/We/They + study. He/She/It + studies.

The train leaves at 6 AM tomorrow.

#### - NEGATIVE

S + do/does not (don't/doesn't) + V<sub>1</sub> ⇒ I/You/We/They + do not (don't) + study. He/She/It + does not (doesn't) study.

The store doesn't open until 10 AM.

#### ? INTERROGATIVE

Do/Does + S + V<sub>1</sub> ⇒ Do + I/You/We/They + study? Does + He/She/It + study?

Does the meeting start at 9 AM?

### Usage:

The Present Simple tense (in the future) is used to express...

#### SCHEDULED OR FIXED EVENTS

The conference starts next week.

## FUTURE PERFECT SIMPLE

## Formation:

### + AFFIRMATIVE

S + will have + V<sub>3/-ed</sub> ⇒ I/You/We/They/He/She/It + will have + studied.

*By next week, I will have finished my project.*

### - NEGATIVE

S + will not (won't) have + V<sub>3/-ed</sub> ⇒ I/You/We/They/He/She/It + will not (won't) have + studied.

*She won't have completed the task by tomorrow.*

### ? INTERROGATIVE

Will + S + have + V<sub>3/-ed</sub> ⇒ Will + I/you/we/they/he/she/it + have + studied?

*Will you have finished the report by 5 PM?*

## Usage:

The Future Perfect Simple tense is used to express...

**ACTIONS FINISHED IN THE FUTURE** (before a specific point or certain time in the future)

*By the end of the year, they will have moved to a new city.*

*By this time next year, I will have graduated.*

*When you arrive tomorrow, they will have left.*

\* common time expressions: by... (by tomorrow, by next week, by the end of the year...), by this time... (by this time tomorrow, by this time next week...), in... (in 2 weeks, in 5 years...), when/before..., by + time expression means 'not later than', 'at' or 'before' certain time

## FUTURE PERFECT CONTINUOUS

## Formation:

### + AFFIRMATIVE

S + will have been + V<sub>ing</sub> ⇒ I/You/We/They/He/She/It + will have been + studying.

*By next month, I will have been working at this company for five years.*

### - NEGATIVE

S + will not (won't) have been + V<sub>ing</sub> ⇒ I/You/We/They/He/She/It + will not (won't) have been + studying.

*By December, she won't have been studying here for long.*

### ? INTERROGATIVE

Will + S + have been + V<sub>ing</sub> ⇒ Will + I/you/we/they/he/she/it + have been + studying?

*Will you have been waiting for more than an hour?*

## Usage:

The Future Perfect Continuous tense is used to express...

**DURATION** of an activity up to a specific point in the future

*By 5 PM, we will have been driving for six hours.*