

FUTURE TENSES

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

FUTURE SIMPLE

Formation:

+ AFFIRMATIVE

S + will + V₁ ⇒ I/You/We/They/He/She/It + will + study.

I will go to the party.

- NEGATIVE

S + will not (won't) + V₁ ⇒ I/You/We/They/He/She/It + will not (won't) + study.

She won't come to the meeting.

? INTERROGATIVE

Will + S + V₁ ⇒ 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 + V₁ ⇒ I/You/We/They/He/She/It + shall + study.
I shall go to the meeting tomorrow.

- NEGATIVE

S + shall not (shan't) + V₁ ⇒ I/You/We/They/He/She/It + shall not (shan't) + study.
We shall not leave until the work is complete.

? INTERROGATIVE

Shall + S + V₁ ⇒ 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 + V₁ ⇒ 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 + V₁ ⇒ 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 + V₁ ⇒ 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_{ing} ⇒ 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_{ing} ⇒ 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_{ing} ⇒ 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_{ing} ⇒ 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_{ing} ⇒ 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_{ing} ⇒ 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	intention, but it might not be fully arranged yet	already scheduled, there may be tickets or registration
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	I am going to visit the museum. ⇒ intends to do it, but may not have arranged it firmly	She is meeting her professor next Tuesday. ⇒ a confirmed arrangement
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	I'm going to wash my car tomorrow. ⇒ an intention, but I haven't arranged to do it yet	I am studying with John tomorrow at 5 PM. ⇒ a definite plan or arrangement for tomorrow

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

PRESENT SIMPLE

Formation:

+ AFFIRMATIVE

S + V_{1/-s/-es} ⇒ 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) + V₁ ⇒ 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 + V₁ ⇒ 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_{3/-ed} ⇒ 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_{3/-ed} ⇒ 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_{3/-ed} ⇒ 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_{ing} ⇒ 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_{ing} ⇒ 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_{ing} ⇒ 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.