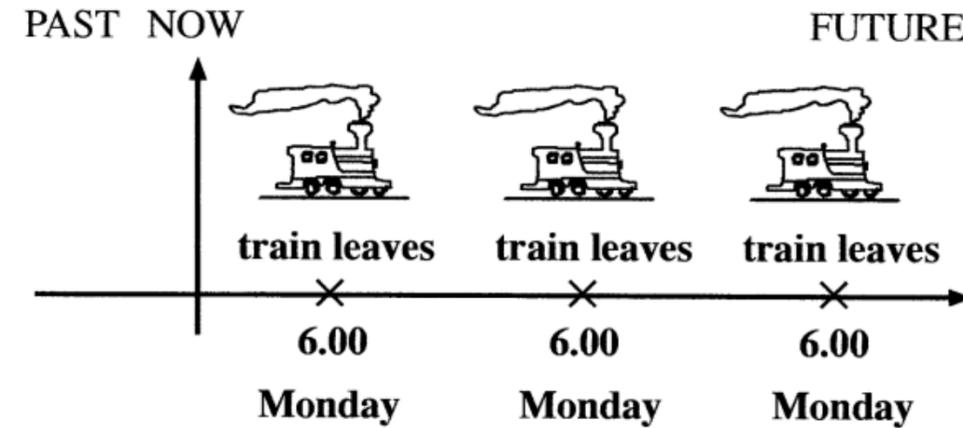


FUTURE

Present Simple timetable future

The train *leaves* at 6.00 on Monday.



Concept

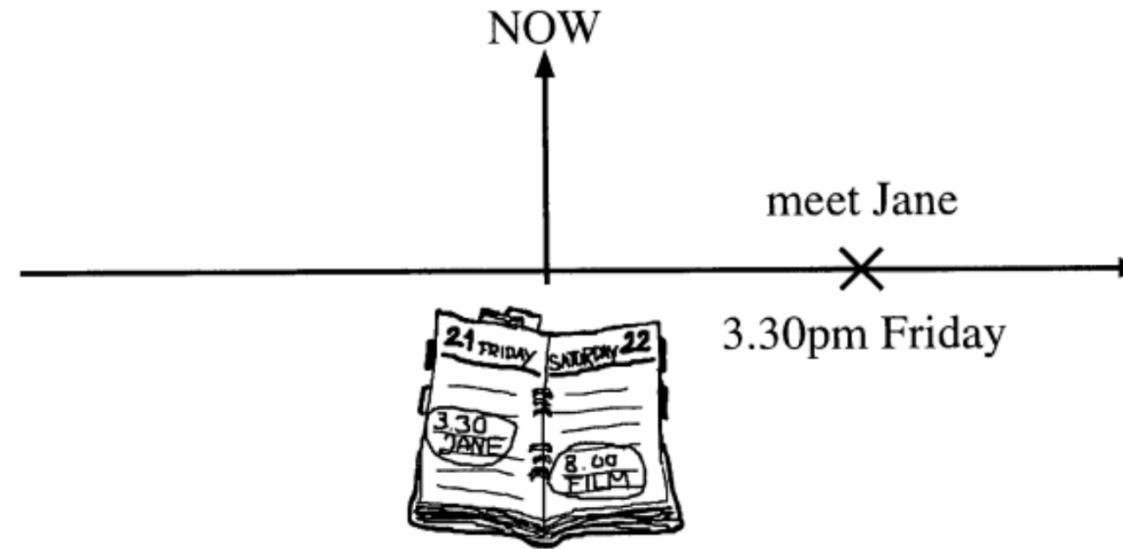
The Present Simple is used to talk about future events on a timetable or programme of events. This use is sometimes called the “timetable future”.

Concept Questions

- 1 Is it on a timetable? (Yes)
- 2 Does this happen at the same time every Monday? (Yes)

Present Continuous diary future

I'm meeting Jane at 3.30 on Friday.



Concept

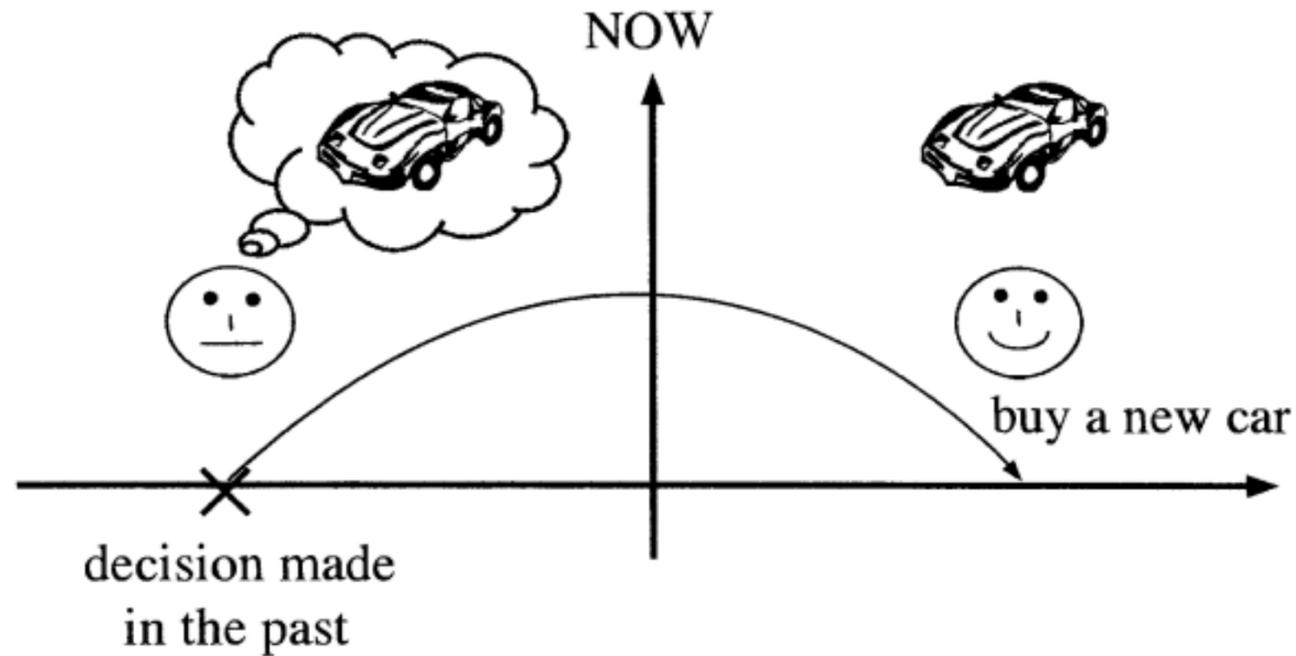
The Present Continuous is used to talk about definite future arrangements. This use is sometimes called the “diary future”. The time reference is either given or understood.

Concept Questions

- 1 Are we talking about the present or the future? (Future)
- 2 Is it a definite arrangement? (Yes)
- 3 So is it in my diary? (Yes)

going to
expressing an intention

I'm *going to* buy a new car.



Concept

going to is used to express an intention or plan. It is not a definite arrangement. The decision was made before the moment of speaking.

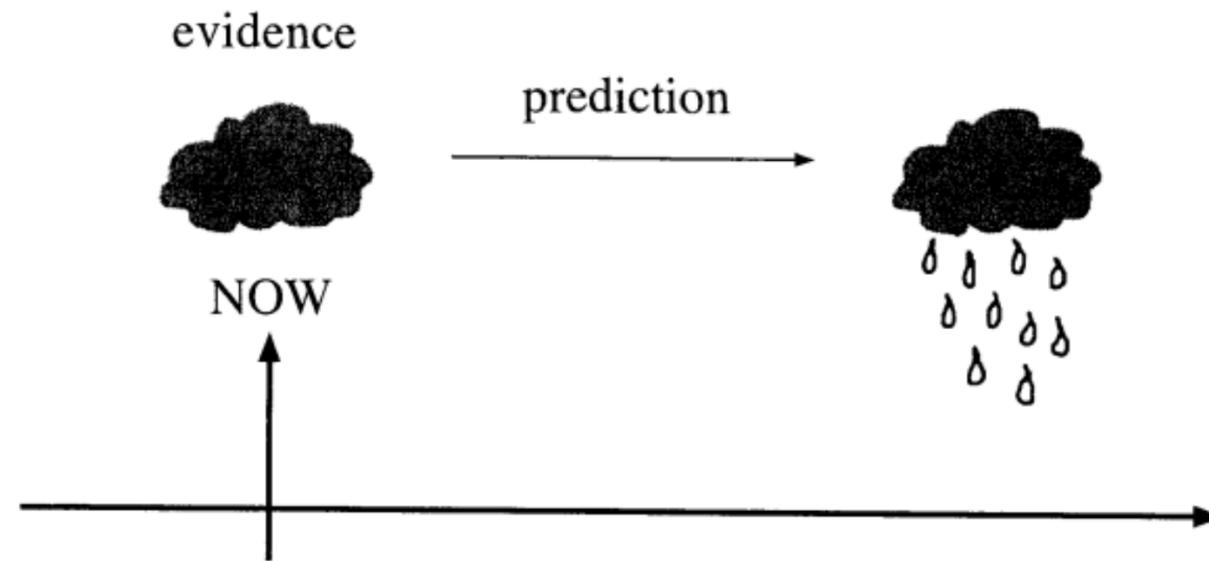
Concept Questions

- 1 Are we talking about the future? (Yes)
- 2 Is this an intention / plan? (Yes)
- 3 Did I decide now or in the past? (In the past)
- 4 Is it a definite arrangement? (No)

going to
making a prediction

“Look at those dark clouds.”

“Yes, it’s *going to* rain.”



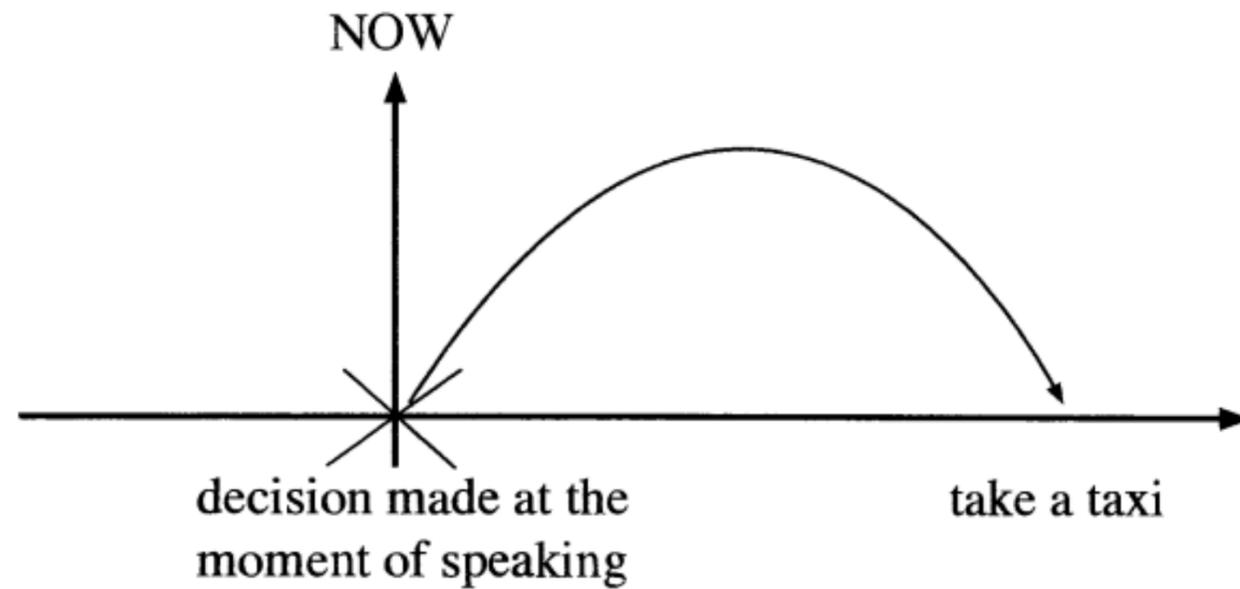
Concept
going to is used to make a prediction about the future, based on evidence in the present.

Concept Questions

- 1 Are we talking about the future? (Yes)
- 2 Are we making a prediction? (Yes)
- 3 What is the evidence for this prediction? (Dark clouds)

Future Simple
making a spontaneous decision

“There are no buses today.”
“OK, *I’ll* take a taxi.”



Concept

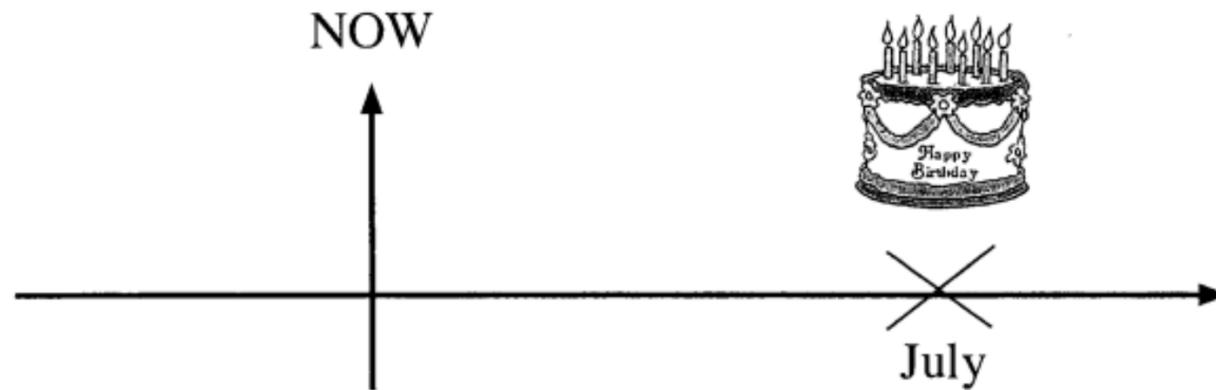
The Future Simple is used to express a decision made at the moment of speaking - ie it is a spontaneous decision. The contracted form *I’ll* is used in spoken English.

Concept Questions

- 1 Did I decide now or in the past? (Now)
- 2 Is it a spontaneous decision? (Yes)

Future Simple
future as inevitable fact

I'll be thirty in July.



Concept

The Future Simple is used to talk about inevitable future events, ie things in the future that cannot be changed. The contracted form *I'll* is used in spoken English.

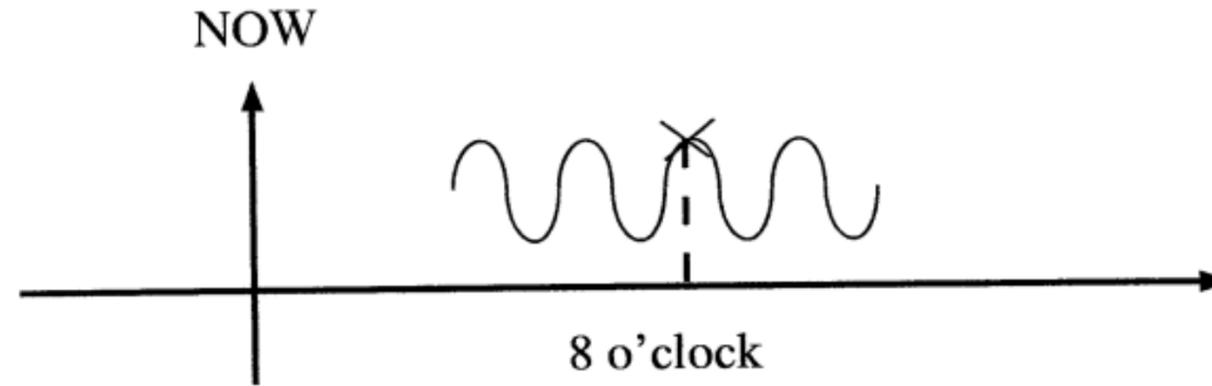
Concept Questions

- 1 Are we talking about the future? (Yes)
- 2 Can I change this future fact? (No)
- 3 Is it inevitable? (Yes)

Future Continuous

activity in progress at a future point in time

I'll be having dinner at 8 o'clock.



Concept

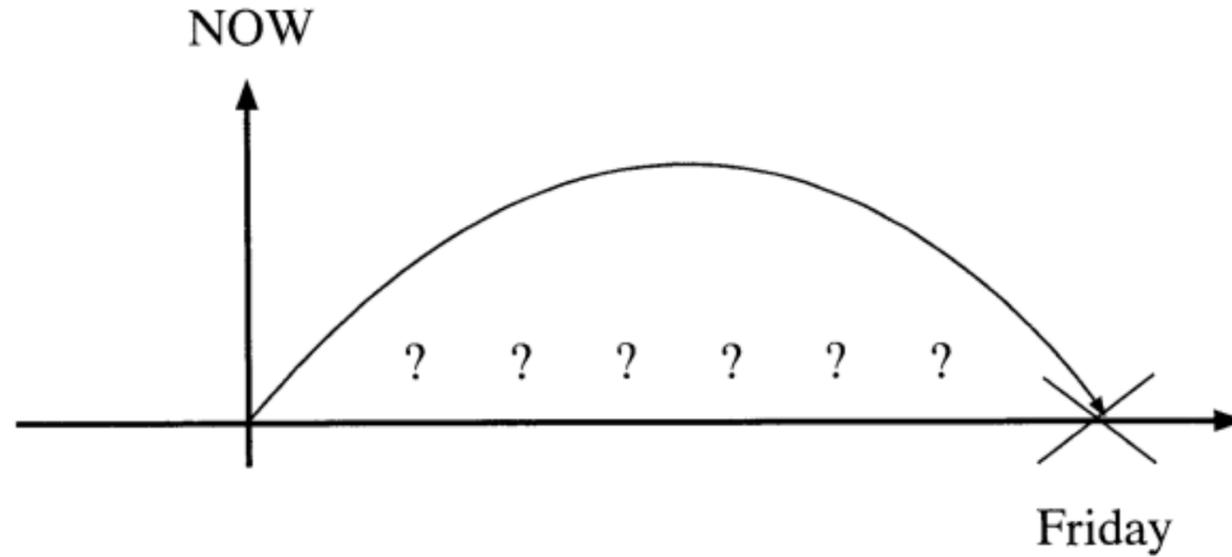
The Future Continuous is used to talk about an activity in progress at a future point in time. It is used in the same way as the Past Continuous and the Present Continuous but refers to the future.

Concept Questions

- 1 Do I start having dinner before 8 o'clock? (Yes)
- 2 Am I still having dinner after 8 o'clock? (Yes)
- 3 So is this action in progress at 8 o'clock? (Yes)

Future Perfect Simple
an action completed in the future

I'll have finished the book by Friday.



Concept

The Future Perfect Simple is used to talk about a future action that will be completed at or before a specified time. It is often used with the word *by*, eg *by 2050*.

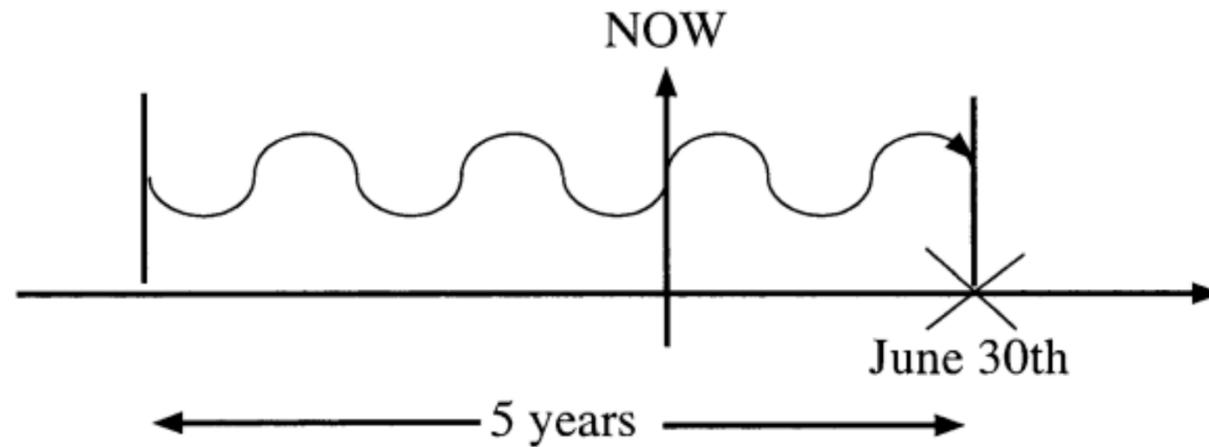
Concept Questions

- 1 Imagine it is Friday. Is the book finished? (Yes)
- 2 Is the action completed between now and Friday? (Yes)
- 3 Do we know exactly when? (No)

Future Perfect Continuous

future duration use

I'll have been working here for 5 years by the end of June.



Concept

The Future Perfect Continuous is used to talk about the duration of an activity that started in the past and extends to a future point in time. It is often used with the word *by*.

Concept Questions

- 1 Am I talking about a period of time that started in the past and continues up to a future point in time? (Yes)
- 2 Am I interested in the duration of this activity? (Yes)

Future Continuous

“Is now a good time to call Jane?”

“No, don’t ring now. She’ll be eating.”

Concept

The Future Continuous can be used to make deductions about activities happening in the present.

Concept questions

- 1 Are we talking about the present or the future? (The present)
- 2 Do I think she is eating now? (Yes)
- 3 How sure am I? (Very sure, 99%)
- 4 Why am I so sure? (Because she usually eats at this time)
- 5 Am I making a deduction? (Yes)

in case

I'll take my umbrella *in case* it rains.

Concept

in case is used to talk about being prepared for things that may happen in the future.

Concept questions

- 1 Is it raining now? (No)
- 2 Is there a possibility it will rain in the future? (Yes)
- 3 Do I want to be prepared if it rains? (Yes)

First conditional

If it *rains*, I *will stay* at home.

Concept

We use the First Conditional to talk about a situation that we see as possible in the future. It is called the “Possible Conditional”. It can be used to express a variety of functions, eg an offer, a threat, a warning, a consequence.

Concept questions

- 1 Are we talking about the present or the future? (Future)
- 2 Is it possible this will happen in the future? (Yes)
- 3 How probable is the if-clause? (50/50)
- 4 How certain is the result clause? (100%)

Second conditional

If I *won* a lot of money, I *would buy* a big house.

If I *were* you, I *would stop* smoking.

Concept

We use the Second Conditional to talk about a situation we see as improbable or unreal. It is called the “Improbable Conditional.” It can be used to give advice, make offers, and talk about a variety of hypothetical situations.

Concept questions

- 1 Are we talking about the past, present or future? (Future or present)
- 2 Is this a real or imagined situation? (Imagined)
- 3 How probable is the if-clause? (Improbable or unreal)
- 4 How certain is the result clause? (100%)

Futures - Grammar Reference Sheet

Will + Shall

1 Spontaneous decision	eg <i>OK, I'll see you at 7.00.</i>
2 Making Requests	eg <i>Will you let me know as soon as possible?</i>
3 Expressing a prediction, belief or opinion about the future	eg <i>I don't think they'll win the match.</i>
4 Inevitable future fact	eg <i>John will be thirty next week.</i>
5 Promise or threat	eg <i>I'll give you the money tomorrow.</i> eg <i>I'll punch you on the nose.</i>
6 Making an offer	eg <i>I'll carry that for you.</i> eg <i>Shall I open the window for you?</i>
7 Making a suggestion	eg <i>Shall we go out tonight?</i>
8 First Conditional	eg <i>If it rains, I'll stay at home.</i>

Going to

1 Plan or intention - <i>not</i> a definite arrangement. Decision made in the past.	eg <i>I'm going to book a holiday in Greece.</i>
2 Making a prediction based on evidence in the present	eg <i>I feel terrible. I think I'm going to faint.</i> eg <i>Look at those clouds. It's going to rain.</i>

Present Continuous

Definite future arrangement (sometimes called the "diary future"). A specific time is given.	eg <i>I'm meeting Paul at 3 o'clock.</i>
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Present Simple

The "timetable future"	eg <i>My plane leaves at 7.00 in the morning.</i>
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Exercise 1

Complete these sentences with *will* or *going to*. Compare your answers with your partner.

- 1 A: Poor Elizabeth went to hospital yesterday.
B: Oh dear! I'm sorry to hear that. I _____ send her some flowers.

- 2 A: The room's too cold.
B: Yes, you're right. It isn't very warm in here, is it? I _____ turn on the heater.

- 3 A: I hear you're having difficulty with your wife these days.
B: Yes, I _____ divorce her.

- 4 A: Oh dear! I can't do this homework.
B: Don't worry. I _____ help you.

- 5 A: Did you remember to book seats for the theatre?
B: Oh no, I forgot. I _____ telephone for them now.

- 6 A: Do you love Jane?
B: Yes, I love her and we _____ get married.

- 7 A: It's John's birthday tomorrow.
B: Is it? I haven't got any money for a present but I _____ send him a card.

- 8 A: What are your plans for the summer?
B: We _____ travel around Europe.

- 9 A: Dave is very angry with you.
B: Is he? I didn't realise. I _____ ring him and apologise.

- 10 A: Why are you leaving so early?
B: Because the teacher gave us a lot of homework, and I _____ do it very carefully.

Exercise 2

Work with your partner. All the sentences below have the wrong future form.
Put the correct future form in the sentences and explain your choice.

- 1 I feel terrible. I think I'll faint.
- 2 I'm afraid I can't come to the cinema because I'll have a party tonight.
- 3 Don't worry. I help you.
- 4 Next year I'll take the Proficiency exam, but I haven't enrolled in a class yet.
- 5 Look at the timetable. The train is going to leave at 8 o'clock.
- 6 "I don't know how to use this machine."
"OK, I'm explaining how it works."
- 7 All the tickets for Friday are sold out? OK, then I'm taking two tickets for Saturday.
- 8 I listened to the weather forecast this morning. They say it's raining tomorrow.
- 9 I've got an appointment at the dentist's. I'll go this afternoon.
- 10 It's no good. You can't stop me! I'll jump. (standing on top of the Eiffel Tower)

Exercise 3

Discuss the different uses of the Future Continuous in the sentences below.

- 1 This time tomorrow we'll be lying on the beach.
- 2 In tonight's programme we'll be talking to the Prime Minister.
- 3 Will you be passing the post office on your way home?
- 4 Don't ring now – she'll be sleeping.

Exercise 4

Match the sentences above with the descriptions of the different uses of the Future Continuous below.

- A To talk about or ask about future activities that have been planned.
- B To talk about an activity in progress at a future point in time.
- C To make a deduction about a present activity based on knowledge of someone's routine or what normally happens at this time.
- D To introduce polite requests.
(If the activity has already been planned or will take place in the natural course of events, no inconvenience is being imposed on the person who is being asked to do something.)

Exercise 5

Match the sentences below with the different uses of the Future Continuous (A, B, C, D) above.

- 1 Don't ring now – she'll be putting the children to bed.
- 2 Will you be going to the party on Saturday?
- 3 Will you be going to the shops today?
- 4 In America it's 8.00am, so children everywhere will be getting ready for school.
- 5 Will you be making any more films?
- 6 The sun will be setting in a minute.
- 7 We'll be arriving around 6.00.
- 8 Will you be staying long?
- 9 It's 6 o'clock in Miami now so their plane will be landing at this moment.
- 10 Don't ring me at 1 o'clock because I'll be having lunch at that time.
- 11 Will you be driving home in my direction? My car isn't working.

