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Future (2)

going to; future in the past; present tenses after time conjunctions; future perfect; to be about to

A Context listening

1 You are going to hear a man called Simon Trite talking to a group of people on the remote and uninhabited island of Wildrock in the North Atlantic. They went there as an experiment in survival. Simon has just come to the island.

Before you listen, look at the picture and answer these questions.

- 1 Why do you think Simon has come to the island?

- 2 What do you think it is like to live on this island?



2 **09** Listen and check if you were right.

3 **09** Listen again and answer these questions. Stop the recording when you need to.

- 1 How long were they going to stay on Wildrock? for at least a year
- 2 Why are the people going to leave Wildrock? _____
- 3 When are they going to leave? _____
- 4 By the end of this week, what will they have achieved? _____
- 5 By the end of this week, how long will they have been living on Wildrock? _____
- 6 When are they going to eat a big hot meal? _____
- 7 Who is going to stay on the island? Why? _____

4 Look at Exercise 3 and answer these questions.

- 1 Which questions refer only to the future? _____
- 2 Which question is about old plans which have been changed? _____
- 3 Which questions are about actions which are incomplete now but will be complete at some future time? _____

B Grammar

1 going to

+	am/is/are going to + verb	<i>I'm going to leave.</i>
-	am/is/are not going to + verb	<i>They're not going to leave.</i>
?	am/is/are ... going to + verb?	<i>Are you going to leave?</i>

It is often possible to use *going to* to express the future instead of the present continuous or *will* (> see Unit 5). *Going to* is used extremely often in everyday speech. In formal and written English, *will* and the present tenses are generally used more often than *going to*.

We use *going to*:

- for future actions which we have already decided about.

Compare:

We're going to pack up our stuff, we're going to send a message to the mainland and we're going to leave.

(= the speaker says they already have a clear plan)

Oh dear! We can't get everything in the boat. We'll leave this stuff behind. (= the speaker decides at that moment) (> see Unit 5)

I'm going to buy a new phone at the weekend because I lost my old one last week and nobody's found it.

(= the speaker has decided to replace his phone because he doesn't expect it to be found)

Look at this phone – it's really cheap. I think I'll buy it. (= the speaker has just seen this phone and is making the decision as he speaks)

- to predict something, when we already see evidence for our prediction:

It's going to rain soon. (= the speaker knows it's going to rain because he can see the clouds)

I'm going to enjoy this meal. (= the speaker can see some delicious food on her plate)

There are many situations when either *going to* or *will* can be used for predictions with no real difference in meaning.

Pronunciation note: *going to* is often pronounced *gonna*. You may see it spelt this way in comic books and pop songs.

2 Future in the past (*was/were going to*)

We use *was/were going to*:

- to talk about something which was planned but did not or will not happen:

You were going to stay here for at least a year. (= but now you have changed your mind)

- to show that we don't mind changing our plans:

Ben: Are you busy this evening?

Jim: Well, I was going to watch a film. (= Jim may forget about the film if Ben suggests a more exciting idea)

3 Present tenses after time conjunctions

In clauses referring to future time and beginning with *when, until, before, after* and *as soon as* we use:

- a present tense (for actions at the same time as the other verb or following the other verb):

Everyone's going to be very surprised when you arrive.

Will you phone me before you go on holiday?

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- the present perfect (for actions completed before the other verb):
*And we're not going to talk to any reporters **until we've had** a long sleep.*
*I'm going to have a shower **after I've answered** these emails.*

Sometimes we can use either a present or present perfect tense with the same meaning:

*We're going to eat a big hot meal as soon as we **find** a restaurant.*
*We're going to eat a big hot meal as soon as we've **found** a restaurant.*

4 Future perfect simple and future perfect continuous

+	will have + past participle	<i>I'll have finished by six o'clock.</i>
-	will not have + past participle	<i>He won't have finished by six o'clock.</i>
?	will ... have + past participle?	<i>Will you have finished by six o'clock?</i>

We use the future perfect simple to say that an action will be complete before a point of time in the future. It is usual to mention the point in time:

*By the end of this week we'll **have survived** longer than anyone else.*
*I'll **have cycled** twelve kilometres by lunchtime.*
*This time next year, she'll **have finished** university.*
*You'll soon **have earned** enough to replace your phone.*

+	will have been + verb + -ing	<i>By one o'clock, I'll have been waiting for three hours.</i>
-	will not have been + verb + -ing	<i>She won't have been waiting for long.</i>
?	will ... have been + verb + -ing?	<i>Will they have been waiting for a long time?</i>

We use the future perfect continuous to emphasise how long an action will have lasted at a point in the future. It is usually necessary to mention the point of time and the length of time:

*By the end of this week, we'll **have been living** here for six months.*
*I'll **have been cycling** for three hours by lunchtime.*

State verbs (> see Unit 1, B3) are not used in the future perfect continuous.

5 to be about to

+	am/is/are about to + verb	<i>I'm about to go out.</i>
-	am/is/are not about to + verb	<i>He isn't about to go out.</i>
?	am/is/are ... about to + verb?	<i>Are you about to go out?</i>

We use *to be about to* to talk about something which is going to happen almost immediately and for which we are already prepared:

*Actually, we're **about to leave**.*
*I need to talk to you but if you're **about to start** dinner, I can phone again later.*

In informal language, the negative often means 'do not intend to' do something:

*We **aren't about to change** the rules just because you don't like them.* (= we refuse to change the rules just because you don't like them)

*Barbara wants me to go sky-diving with her, but I'm **not about to do** that!*

C Grammar exercises

1 Look at these pictures and predict what is going to happen. Complete the first sentence using *going to* and the second using *about to*.



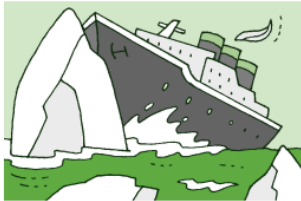
1 She 's going to fall asleep .
She 's about to fall asleep .



2 They _____ .
They _____ .



3 He _____ .
He _____ .



4 It _____ .
It _____ .



5 It _____ .
It _____ .



6 She _____ .
She _____ .

2 These are a researcher's notes, with predictions about how the world will have changed by the year 2100. Use the notes to write sentences in the future perfect simple.

By the year 2100

- 1 human beings / travel / to Mars
- 2 robots / replace / most manual workers
- 3 we / use / all the oil resources on Earth
- 4 doctors / discover / a cure for the common cold
- 5 scientists / invent / new sources of energy
- 6 sea temperatures / rise / by several degrees

- 1 Human beings will have travelled to Mars.
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____

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3 Choose the correct sentence from each pair.

- 1 a I'm not going to pay you until you have cleaned up all this mess! ✓
b I'm not going to pay you until you'll have cleaned up all this mess!
- 2 a Paul will probably arrive after all the others will have started work.
b Paul will probably arrive after all the others have started work.
- 3 a When you'll see David, will you ask him if he wants to come to the cinema?
b When you see David, will you ask him if he wants to come to the cinema?
- 4 a I'll collect your things from the cleaners when I go to the shops tomorrow.
b I'll collect your things from the cleaners when I'll go to the shops tomorrow.
- 5 a Margaret's going to phone as soon as she'll have found out what the tickets will cost.
b Margaret's going to phone as soon as she's found out what the tickets will cost.

4 These people work in a hotel. It's now 12 o'clock. At 2 o'clock, how long will they have been working? Write a sentence about each person, using the future perfect continuous.



- 1 chef / cook meals (started work at eight o'clock)
The chef will have been cooking meals for six hours.
- 2 gardener / cut hedges (started work at ten o'clock)

- 3 manager / interview new staff (started work at eight thirty)

- 4 waitress / serve customers in the dining room (started work at eleven o'clock)

- 5 cleaner / vacuum floors (started work at seven o'clock)

5 Fill in the gaps with the correct form of the verbs. Use *going to*, future in the past, the present simple, *about to* or the future perfect.

- A John:** What are your plans for the weekend?
Sue: Well, we've just changed our plans, actually. We (1) were going to have (have) a barbecue on Sunday. But the weather forecast says it (2) _____ (be) cold and windy, so we (3) _____ (stay) indoors and watch a film.
- B Beth:** Is it all right for you to use the boss's office while he's on holiday?
Nick: I don't think he'll mind when he (4) _____ (find out) how many cars I've sold this week.
- C Terry:** Are you very busy this afternoon?
Eddy: Well, that depends on why you're asking. I (5) _____ (wash) the car. Do you have a better idea?
Terry: Yes. I (6) _____ (look round) the new sports club. Do you want to come? You can wash the car tomorrow.
Eddy: Sure. Let's go.
- D Ben:** Hurry up! We (7) _____ (miss) the beginning of the concert.
Mary: Don't be silly. We've got plenty of time.
Ben: But it starts at nine. I want to arrive before the hall (8) _____ (get) full, otherwise other people (9) _____ (take) all the good seats by the time we get there.
- E Chloe:** Next month I (10) _____ (work) in this office for three years. Nobody has ever thanked me for anything I've done, so I (11) _____ (start) looking for another job!

6  Correct the mistakes in the following sentences by Cambridge First candidates.

- 1 Do you remember I ~~am~~ going to buy a computer with the money I earned in the holidays? Well, I changed my mind and I've bought a bike! _____ was
- 2 I'll tell you all about it as soon as I will see you. _____
- 3 Some scientists say by the year 3000 women will take over the world. _____
- 4 When he will come to my house I will ask him to fix my TV. _____
- 5 She is retiring next month, so this time next year she will have been leaving the company. _____
- 6 When you are going to finish the job, the invoice will be paid. _____
- 7 I need the money today because I will buy a present for my sister after college. _____

Exam practice

Reading and Use of English Part 7

You are going to read an article about young people who have started their own businesses. For questions 1–10, choose from the people (A–D). The people may be chosen more than once.

Which person

advises not giving up at an early stage?	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
is doing something in a way they didn't expect?	2	<input type="checkbox"/>
mentions an advantage they sometimes have over other people in their business?	3	<input type="checkbox"/>
went through a period when they felt unable to cope?	4	<input type="checkbox"/>
realises that their own ways of doing things might not always be the best?	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
realises that their fascination with their present business may not last?	6	<input type="checkbox"/>
says their success has not followed a steady path?	7	<input type="checkbox"/>
mentions how determined they are when they decide to do something?	8	<input type="checkbox"/>
received positive encouragement to start their own business?	9	<input type="checkbox"/>
became aware of how much knowledge they already had in a particular area?	10	<input type="checkbox"/>

I STARTED MY OWN BUSINESS

We talked to four young people who started successful businesses when they were teenagers

A Santiago has a business designing websites

I was going to do a course in graphic design when I left school but I started doing websites for some of my dad's friends when I was about 17 and realised I had acquired a lot of expertise from doing the school website. Since then I've hardly been without work. I once had a client who didn't find out my age until after they had hired me and they mentioned that they might not have hired me if they had known my age. But I've also often had clients who have done so because of my age so it can work in my favour. When I asked them why, they said it was because they wanted a 'fresh, younger approach' to business.

B Lucas started a magazine about skateboarding

I wanted to do something that nobody else around me was doing and I love writing so I started my own magazine. I'm like my dad – if he says he's going to do something, nothing will get in the way of that. I started the magazine when I was 13, so by the end of this year I'll have produced 24 editions in four years. At one point recently, I wondered if it was putting too much strain on me with homework and everything. I thought I might have to stop, despite the fact that the magazine was doing well, but I got through that by asking for help from my family and I bounced back. I'll move on to something else if I get bored with it – maybe a blog or something related – but for the moment I still find it inspiring.