

Future Forms

We can refer to future actions with the *future simple*, *be going to*, the *present continuous*, the *present simple*, the *future continuous*, the *future perfect* and the *future perfect continuous*.

Form (future simple)

He/They **will** ('ll) **call**.

Will he/they **call**? **Yes, he will./No, they won't.**

He/They **will not** (won't) **call**.

Form (be going to)

I **am** ('m)/You **are** ('re)/She **is** ('s) **going to stay**.

Are you/Is she going to stay? **Yes, I am./No, she isn't.**

You **are not** (aren't)/She **is not** (isn't) **going to stay**.

Use

Future Simple

The future simple is used:

- ◆ in predictions about the future usually with the verbs *think, believe, expect, etc.*, the expressions *be sure, be afraid, etc.*, and the adverbs *perhaps, certainly, probably, etc.*

His parents **think** he **will become** an artist one day.



- ◆ for on-the-spot decisions and offers.



(on-the-spot decision)



(offer)

- ◆ for actions/events/situations which will definitely happen in the future and which we cannot control.

Jill **will be** two years old next month. (We cannot control this future event; it will definitely happen.)



- ◆ for promises (usually with the verbs *promise, swear, guarantee, etc.*), for threats, for warnings, for requests, for hopes (usually with *I hope*).

I **hope** pollution levels **will drop** soon. (hope)
Factories **must stop** polluting the air or else we **won't be able to** breathe. (warning)



Be Going To

Be going to is used:

- ◆ for plans, intentions or ambitions we have for the future.



I'm **going to employ** more staff. (intention/plan)
I'm **going to expand** my company. (intention/plan)

- ◆ in predictions when there is evidence that something will happen in the near future.

Look at him! He **is going to win** the race. (There is evidence. - he is ahead of the other runners.)



Note:

- We use **will** when we make a prediction based on what we think, believe or imagine.
e.g. In the year 2050 there **will be** colonies on Mars.
- We use **be going to** when we make a prediction based on what we can see (evidence) or know.
e.g. Look! The acrobat **is going to** walk along the tightrope.

Present Continuous

- ◆ The present continuous is used for fixed arrangements in the near future.

He **is leaving** for Amsterdam in an hour. (Everything has been arranged for his trip. He **is at** the airport now.)



Present Simple

- ◆ The present simple is used with a future meaning when we refer to programmes or timetables (trains, buses, etc.).



The film **starts** in ten minutes. (cinema programme)

The future simple and **be going to** are used with the following expressions:

tomorrow, the day after tomorrow,
next week/month/year, tonight, soon,
in a week/month/year, etc.

1

Tanya Smimoff is a famous astrologer. She's been invited on a TV show to give her astrological predictions for next year. Using the prompts below, make sentences, as in the example.



e.g. An earthquake **will strike** Asia.

- 1 earthquake/strike/Asia
- 2 Tom Murray/win/elections
- 3 economy/not improve/significantly
- 4 number of road accidents/increase
- 5 America/establish/colony/on Mars
- 6 scientists/not discover/cure for common cold

2

In pairs, ask and answer questions using the prompts below, as in the examples.

SA: Are you going to pay the bill?
SB: Yes, that's what I'm going to do.
SA: Are you going to complain to the manager?
SB: No, that's not what I'm going to do.

- 1 pay the bill (✓)
- 2 complain to the manager (X)
- 3 take the skirt back to the shop (✓)
- 4 buy the jumper (✓)
- 5 ask the bank manager for a loan (X)
- 6 order the food (✓)
- 7 book the airline tickets (X)

3

Fill in the gaps with the correct form of **will** or **be going to** and the verb in brackets.

- 1 A: Why are you buying flour and eggs?
B: Because I ...**'m going to make**... (make) a cake.
- 2 A: I have decided what to buy Mum for her birthday.
B: Really. What
(you/buy) for her?
- 3 A: Did you ask Jackie to the party?
B: Oh no! I forgot! I
(ask) her tonight.
- 4 A: Could I speak to Jim, please?
B: Wait a minute. I (get) him for you.
- 5 A: What are your plans for the weekend?
B: I (spend) some time with my friends.
- 6 A: What are you doing on Friday night?
B: Oh, I
(probably/stay) at home with my family.
- 7 A: Have you tidied your room yet?
B: No, but I promise I (do) it this afternoon.
- 8 A: Look at that boy!
B: Oh yes! He
(climb) the tree.
- 9 A: Jason is very clever for his age.
B: Yes. He says he
(become) a doctor when he grows up.
- 10 A: I'm too tired to cut the grass.
B: Don't worry! I (cut) it for you.

7

Put the verbs in brackets into the present simple or the future simple.

- 1 A: I'm going to the gym tonight.
B: Well, while you *are* (be) there, I
(do) the shopping.
- 2 A: (you/call) me when you
..... (get) home?
B: Yes, of course.
- 3 A: As soon as John (come) in,
tell him to come to my office.
B: Certainly, sir.
- 4 A: I'm exhausted.
B: Me too. I wonder if David
..... (come) to help tonight.
- 5 A: Are you going to visit Aunt Mabel this afternoon?
B: Yes, I (visit) her before
I (do) the shopping.
- 6 A: Is George going to eat dinner with us?
B: No, by the time he (get)
home it (be) very late.
- 7 A: When (you/pay) the rent?
B: When I (get) my pay cheque.
- 8 A: What are your plans for the future?
B: I want to go to university after I
..... (finish) school.
- 9 A: If you (pay) for dinner, I
..... (pay) for the theatre.
B: Okay, that's a good idea.
- 10 A: Can you give this message to Mike, please?
B: Well, I'll try, but I doubt if I
..... (see) him today.

8

Put the verbs in brackets into the future simple, the present simple or the present continuous.

- 1 A: I *am seeing* (see) Roger at seven o'clock tonight.
B: Really? I thought he was out of town.
- 2 A: (you/do) anything on Friday morning?
B: No, I'm free.
- 3 A: I (go) to the cinema. There's a new film on. Do you want to come with me?
B: What time (the film/start)?
- 4 A: Helen (have) a party the day after tomorrow. (you/go)?
B: As a matter of fact, I haven't been invited.
- 5 A: The new exhibition (open) on April 3rd and (finish) on May 31st.
B: I know. I (go) on the first day.
- 6 A: Aunt Maggie (come) to visit us tomorrow.
B: I know. What time (she/arrive)?
- 7 A: Excuse me, what time (the train/leave)?
B: At half past three, madam.
- 8 A: Michael Jackson (give) a concert at the Olympic Stadium next week.
B: I know. I (want) to get a ticket.
- 9 A: I'm really thirsty.
B: I (get) you a glass of water.
- 10 A: Are you looking forward to your party?
B: Yes. I hope everyone (enjoy) it.

- 11 A: How old is your sister?
B: She (be) twelve next month.
- 12 A: What are you doing tonight?
B: I (probably/watch) TV after dinner.

9

A Cliff Turner has his own business and it is doing well. He has already decided to expand. Look at the prompts and say what he is going to do, as in the example.



- employ more staff
He's going to employ more staff.
- advertise in newspapers and magazines
- equip the office with computers
- increase production
- move to bigger premises
- open an office abroad

B Cliff is always busy. Look at his schedule and say what his arrangements are for the next few days. Make sentences, as in the example.

MARCH

- Wednesday 12th: fly to Montreal
He's flying to Montreal on Wednesday.
- Thursday 13th: give an interview to *The Financial Times*
- Friday 14th: have lunch with sales representatives
- Saturday 15th: have a meeting with Japanese ambassador
- Sunday 16th: play tennis with Carol

10

In pairs, ask and answer the following questions using I (don't) think/expect I will or I hope/'m sure/'m afraid I will/won't, as in the example.

- SA: *Do you think you will pass your exams?*
SB: *I hope I will/I'm afraid I won't.*

- pass / exams
- move house
- take up / new hobby
- make / new friends
- start having music lessons
- have / party on / birthday
- learn / drive

