

## Unit 8: FUTURE TENSES

### FUTURE SIMPLE FORM

The positive form (,will' + infinitive):

- I will meet him later (I'll ..)
- You will come (you'll..)
- It will rain tomorrow (it'll)

The negative form (will not = won't):

- You won't be late.
- It won't snow tomorrow.
- She won't get the job.

The question form:

,yes / no' questions:

- Will I go?
- Will you come early?
- Will it be cold?
- Will she dance?
- Will he arrive soon?
- Will we cook?
- Will they leave?

,wh' questions:

- Where will I go?
- Why will you come early?
- When will it be cold?
- Who will she dance with?
- What time will he arrive?
- What will we cook?
- When will they leave?

### FUTURE SIMPLE USE

We use the future simple with *will* to **predict** the future. It is the basic way we talk about the future in English, and we often use it if there is no reason to use another future tense. We can use it for **future facts** and for things that are less certain.

- The sun will rise at 7am.
- I think the Conservatives will win the next election.

In a similar way, we often use *will* when we're talking about **a decision at the moment of speaking**.

- A: I'm cold. B: I'll close the window.

As a **modal verb**, *will* is used for promises / requests / refusals / offers

- I'll help you with your homework.
- Will you give me a hand?
- I won't go!

We use the *Future Simple* with *will* in the **first conditional**, and in other sentences that have a conditional feeling.

- If it doesn't rain, we'll go to the park.
- Let's arrive early. That will give us time to relax.

### SHALL

*Shall* is used mainly in the forms *Shall I?* and *Shall we?* in British English. These forms are used when you want to get someone's opinion, especially for offers and suggestions.

- Shall I open the window? (= Do you want me to open the window?)
- Where shall we go tonight? (= What's your opinion?)

## GOING TO FUTURE USE

We often use *be going to* to talk about our future **intentions and plans**. We have usually made our plans before the moment of speaking.

- A: We've run out of milk. B: I know, I'm going to buy some.

We can also use *be going to* to make **a prediction** about the future. Often it's possible to use both *be going to* and *will* but it's more common to use *be going to* if we can see **evidence** in the present.

- Look at those boys playing football! They're going to break the window.
- The sky is getting darker and darker. It's going to rain.

## PRESENT TENSES USED WITH FUTURE MEANING

We use the *Present Continuous* tense for **definite future arrangements**. Often, it doesn't really matter if we choose *be going to* or the *Present Continuous*:

- I'm going to the cinema tonight.
- I'm going to go to the cinema tonight.

We use the *Present Simple* in two cases. First, we use it for a **timetabled event** in the future, like public transport or the start of a class:

- My train leaves at six tonight.
- His class starts at gam tomorrow.

Second, we use it in time clauses, when the sentence has a future meaning. These words are: **before / after / as soon as / until / when**:

- I'll call you when I get home.
- She's going to study after she finishes dinner.
- Please drink some water as soon as you complete the race.

## EXERCISES

- [Exercise 1](#)
- [Exercise 2](#)
- [Exercise 3](#)