



# FUTURE TENSES

FUTURE SIMPLE, GOING TO FUTURE, PRESENT SIMPLE, PRESENT CONTINUOUS



FUTURE SIMPLE /  
GOING TO FUTURE

# FUTURE SIMPLE

Future Simple is the most common future form. It can express:

- Future facts or predictions

I ll be 30 in a few days' time.

It will be cold and wet tomorrow.

When using will to express predictions about the future, it is often based on our own personal opinion. It can be more theoretical or abstract and is often preceded by „*I think*“, „*I'm sure*“, etc.

- Decisions and intentions made at the moment of speaking

I ll phone you back in a minute.

„The phone's ringing.“ „I ll get it.“

# WILL as a modal verb

Will as a modal verb can express various other meanings:

- I 'll help you carry those bags. (offer)
- Will you marry me? (willingness)
- Will you open the window? (request)
- My car won't start. (refusal)
- I 'll love you forever. (promise)

# GOING TO FUTURE

Going to is in many ways interchangeable with will future. It can be used for:

- Predictions based on a present fact (i.e. when we have physical evidence to support our prediction)

Careful! That glass is going to fall over.

She is going to have a baby.

- Future plans, decisions and intentions made before the moment of speaking

When she grows up, she is going to be a ballet dancer.

# FUTURE SIMPLE or GOING TO FUTURE?

WILL FUTURE	GOING TO FUTURE
A decision at the moment of speaking: Julie: There's no milk. John: Really? In that case, I'll go and get some.	A decision before the moment of speaking: Julie: There's no milk. John: I know. I'm going to go and get some when this TV program finishes.
A prediction based on opinion: I think the Conservatives will win the next election.	A prediction based on something we can see (or hear) now: The Conservatives are going to win the election. They already have most of the votes.
A future fact: The sun will rise tomorrow.	
For promises / requests / refusals / offers: I'll help you tomorrow, if you like.	



# PRESENT TENSES USED FOR FUTURE

# PRESENT SIMPLE AND CONTINUOUS

Present Continuous can be used to express personal arrangements and fixed plans, when the event is planned and decided and often in the near future.

- I'm having lunch with Brian tomorrow.
- Are you coming to the cinema tonight?

Present Simple refers to a future event that is based on a timetable or calendar.

- My flight leaves at 10am.
- What time does the film start?



# TIME CLAUSES

Conjunctions (vezniki) of time aren't usually followed by WILL.

In „TIME CLAUSES“ we use a Present Tense even though the time reference is future:

- I'll phone you when I get home.
- As soon as dinner is ready, I'll give you a call.
- Can I have a word with you before I go?
- Wait until I come back.
- When I've read the book, I'll lend it to you.
- I'll go home after I've done the shopping.

# EXERCISES

- <https://www.englisch-hilfen.de/en/exercises/tenses/future.htm>
- <https://agendaweb.org/verbs/future-simple-exercises.html>
- <https://www.english-4u.de/en/tenses-exercises/future.htm>
- <https://www.ego4u.com/en/cram-up/grammar/future-mix/exercises>