

Explanations

Prediction

■ Will

Will is used to make predictions. It is often preceded by *I think* or by opinion words like *perhaps*. A time expression is also necessary.

I think it'll rain tomorrow. Perhaps she'll be late.

In speech, *will* is contracted to 'll.

See also Grammar 18 and 19 for functional uses of *will*.

■ Going to

Going to is also used for predictions. It is especially common when we can see the cause of the event.

Look out! There's a bus coming! It's going to hit us!

I can see you're going to have a baby. When is it due?

You're going to fall!

Going to is also common in impersonal statements.

Liverpool are going to win the Cup.

But *will* can also be used for most examples like this, with no change of meaning.

■ Future continuous

The future continuous is used to describe a situation in progress at a particular time in the future.

This time next week I expect I'll be living in London. And I'll probably be cycling to work.

■ Future perfect

The future perfect looks back from a point in the future.

By the time we get there, the film will have started.

It refers to indefinite time up to that point. This means that when we get to the future point we can say:

The film has started.

Intention

■ Going to

Going to is used to describe a present intention or plan. This is something we have already decided to do.

I'm going to fix the television tomorrow.

■ Will

Will is used for instant decisions made at the time of speaking.

I know, I'll get him a wallet for his birthday.

FIRST CERTIFICATE LANGUAGE PRACTICE

Fixed arrangements and timetables

■ Present continuous

The present continuous is used to describe definite, fixed arrangements.

Sorry, I can't help you, I'm leaving in the morning.

The arrangements are often social arrangements or appointments and may be written in a diary.

■ Present simple

The present simple is used to describe future events which are based on a timetable, programme or calendar.

My train leaves at 11.30 tomorrow morning.

When, until, as soon as

After the time expressions *when*, *until* and *as soon as* a present tense form is used, although this refers to future time.

I'll wait for you here until you get back.

The present perfect is often used in cases like this to emphasize the completion of an event.

I'll wait here until you have finished.

Practice

1 Underline the most suitable future form in each sentence.

- a) Why are you going to buy/will you buy a new mountain bike?
 b) Don't phone between 8.00 and 9.00. I'll study/I'll be studying then.
 c) Look out! That tree will/is going to fall!
 d) Let me know as soon as Louise will get/gets there.
 e) Great news! Jean and Chris will come/are coming to stay with us.
 f) According to this timetable, the bus is going to arrive/arrives at 6.00.
 g) Can you call me at 7.00, because I'll leave/I'm leaving tomorrow.
 h) If you arrive late at the sale, the best things will go/will have gone.

2 Put each verb in brackets into a suitable future form. More than one answer may be possible.

- a) I can't see you on Thursday afternoon. I (visit) am visiting..... our Birmingham branch.
 b) George (not be) back until six. Can I take a message?
 c) What (you buy) with the money you won in the lottery?
 d) I don't think you (have) any problems at the airport.
 e) (you take) your dog with you to Scotland?
 f) All the hotels are full. Where (we spend) the night?
 g) You'd better not come in July. My mother (stay) with me then.
 h) What time (your plane leave) ?

3 Put each verb in brackets into a suitable future form. More than one answer may be possible.

- a) By the time we reach home, the rain (stop) will have stopped.....
 b) This time next week I (lie) on the beach in Spain.
 c) In ten years' time I (work) for a different company.
 d) If we don't get there by 6.00, Jack (leave)
 e) In July they (be married) for twenty years.
 f) In the year 2500 a lot of people (live) on the Moon.
 g) When you get to the station, I (wait) for you outside.
 h) Don't worry! The plane (land) in a moment.
 i) By the time you come home, I (finish) the decorating.
 j) Come round between eight and nine. We (watch) the match on television then.

4 Put each verb in brackets into a suitable future form.



Have you ever wondered what exactly (1) *you will be doing*... (you do) in ten years time? Well, according to computer expert Tom Vincent, computers (2) (soon be able) to make accurate predictions about the future. Professor Vincent, from Cambridge, (3) (hold) a press conference next week to describe the computer which he calls 'Computafuture'. 'This computer can tell us what life (4) (be) like, based on data describing past events,' explains Professor Vincent. For example, Computafuture can predict how many people (5) (live) in a particular area, or whether there (6) (be) a lot of rain during a particular period. Professor Vincent also believes that by the year 2050, computers (7) (replace) teachers, and (8) (also do) most of the jobs now being done by the police. 'Computers are becoming more intelligent all the time,' says Professor Vincent. 'Soon they (9) (direct) traffic and (10) (teach) our children. And telling us about the future.'

5 Put each verb in brackets into a suitable verb form. All sentences refer to future time.

- a) When I (see) *see* you tomorrow, I (tell) you my news.
- b) As soon as we (get) there, we (phone) for a taxi.
- c) I (go) to the library before I (do) the shopping.
- d) We (wait) here until the rain (stop)
- e) I (get) £50 from the bank when it (open)
- f) After you (take) the medicine, you (feel) better.
- g) You have to stay until you (finish) your work.
- h) I (let) you know the minute I (hear) the results.
- i) Before we (paint) the wall, we (have) a cup of tea.
- j) We (climb) over the wall as soon as it (get) dark.

- 6** Look carefully at each line. Some of the lines are correct, and some have a word which should not be there. Tick each correct line. If a line has a word which should not be there, write the word in the space.

Keeping a diary

Are you one of those people who will know exactly what they will be doing every day next

..... *will*
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week? When the different days will arrive, will you have get out your diary, or are you the kind of person who will just guess?

1)

2)

3)

Some people will write their appointments in a diary, but others just hope that they will remember. For example, tonight I'm be going to the cinema, but perhaps I'll not forget all about it. You see, I will never keep a diary.

4)

5)

6)

7)

8)

I try not to forget my appointments, but I know that I will usually do. I just don't like planning my future. I know that one day I'm going to make a serious mistake. I'll be miss an important examination, or by the time I remember it and get there, it will have been finished. Perhaps that will be when I have finally buy a diary.

9)

10)

11)

12)

13)

14)

15)

Key points

- 1 For functional uses of *will*, see Grammar 18 and 19.
- 2 The present continuous is used to describe fixed arrangements, and to ask about social arrangements.

Are you doing anything this evening?

- 3 The present simple and present perfect can be used to refer to future time after the words *when*, *until* and *as soon as*.

*I'll tell you the news **when I see you.***

*Call me **when you have finished.***

→ SEE ALSO

Grammar 5: Consolidation 1
Grammar 14: Time expressions
Grammar 18 and 19: Functional uses of *will*