

Simple Future

The simple future is used to say that an action will happen in the future. How we use it depends on how we view the events are going to happen. We can use different tenses to express the completion of an activity in the future:

- WILL
- BE GOING TO
- PRESENT SIMPLE
- PRESENT CONTINUOUS

"Will" and "be going to" can sometimes be used interchangeably, they often express two very different meanings. These different meanings might seem too abstract at first, but with time and practice, the differences will become clear. Both "will" and "be going to" refer to a specific time in the future:



WILL

Form:

Affirmative: will + verb

Negative: won't + verb

Interrogative: will + subject + verb

Uses:

- We use 'will' when we decide to do something at the time of speaking.
For example: I'm too tired to walk home. I think I'll get a taxi.
- We use 'will' to talk about general predictions.
For example: Do you think Peter will get the job?
- We use 'will' to talk about hopes.
For example: I hope he will pass the exam.
- We use 'will' to make offers and promises.
For example: I promise I won't tell your mum what you said.
- We often use 'will' with these words and expressions:
Probably, I'm sure, I expect, I think, maybe

BE GOING TO

Form:

Affirmative: am/is/are + going to + verb

Negative: am not/ isn't/aren't + going to + verb

Interrogative: am/is/are+ subject + going to + verb

Uses:

- We use 'be going to' when we say what we have already decided to do, what we intend to do in the future.
For example: I'm going to buy a new car next year.
- We use 'will' to talk about predictions but only when there is something in the present situation that makes the speaker sure about what will happen.
For example: Look at those black clouds! It is going to rain.

PRESENT SIMPLE

Form:

Affirmative: verb (verb + 's' in the third person singular)

Negative: don't/doesn't + verb

Interrogative: do/does+ subject+ verb

Uses:

- We use the present simple for the future when we refer to something that has been scheduled or arranged to happen at a particular time such as a timetable.
For example: The train leaves at 10:30.

PRESENT CONTINUOUS

Form:

Affirmative: am/is/are + verb -ing

Negative: am not/isn't/aren't + verb -ing

Interrogative: am/is/are+ subject+ verb -ing

Uses:

- We use the present continuous for immediate future arrangements planned at a specific time or date. It is reserved to talk about personal plans.
For example: He's signing a contract tomorrow. (plan)
He's going to sign a contract tomorrow. (intention to do it)