

Future Forms

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
- FUTURE CONTINUOUS
- FUTURE PERFECT SIMPLE

"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: subject + will + verb

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

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

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

Negative: subject + 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)

FUTURE CONTINUOUS

Form:

Affirmative: subject + will + be + verb -ing

Negative: subject + won't + be + verb -ing

Interrogative: will+ subject+ be + verb -ing

Uses:

- We use the future continuous for actions in the future that have already been planned and will be in progress at a specific time in the future. It usually appears with expressions such as 'this time'.

For example: This time next week, she'll be taking her exams.

FUTURE PERFECT SIMPLE

Form:

Affirmative: subject + will + have + past participle

Negative: subject + won't + have + past participle

Interrogative: will+ subject+ have + past participle

Uses:

- We use the future perfect simple for actions completed by a specific time in the future. It is usually introduced by expressions with 'by' which explain that particular moment.

For example: By the end of next year, she will have finished her exams.

FUTURE PERFECT CONTINUOUS

Form:

Affirmative: subject + will + have been + verb -ing

Negative: subject + won't + have been+ verb -ing

Interrogative: will+ subject+ have been + verb -ing

Uses:

- We use the future perfect continuous to view future events that have already happened from a more distant point in the future. We want to emphasize the duration of the event.

For example: My family will have been living abroad for 5 years this September.