

be going to

- 1 We use *be going to* to talk about plans and intentions for the future. We use it for things that we have already decided to do in the future.

I've decided that next year I'm going to do more exercise.

- 2 We can also use *be going to* to make predictions about the future, particularly when we have evidence for the prediction.

All the evidence suggests the situation is going to get worse.

will/won't

- 1 We use *will* and *won't* to make general predictions about the future. We often use *think, hope, expect, imagine*, etc. with *will* and *won't* to show that our prediction is based on thoughts, opinions and expectations.

I believe that one day we will live on Mars.

- 2 We also use *will* and *won't* when we decide to do something at the moment of speaking.

It's cold. I'll close the window now.

Present continuous for future

We use the present continuous to talk about future arrangements; plans that have been confirmed.

Experts from around the world are meeting next month.

Present simple for future

We use the present simple to talk about the future when the action is part of a timetable or routine.

My train leaves at 9 pm tomorrow.

Future continuous

We use the future continuous to talk about activities in progress at a particular time in the future. The activities are in progress and so they are unfinished.

At this time tomorrow, he'll be flying to the US.

Future perfect simple

We use the future perfect to talk about activities that will be finished by a certain time in the future.

I will have gone to bed by midnight.

We often use the preposition *by* with the future perfect. It means 'some time before'.

Future perfect continuous

We use the future perfect continuous to talk about how long an activity will be in progress before a particular moment in the future.

By 8 pm I'll have been revising history for five hours!

be on the verge/point of

We use *be on the verge/point of* to talk about something that is going to happen very soon.

They are on the verge of inventing something really revolutionary.

Summary of future tenses

Tense	Use	Example
<i>be going to</i>	1 For plans and intentions	<i>I'm going to study physics at university.</i>
	2 For predictions based on current evidence	<i>It's going to rain soon - look at the clouds.</i>
<i>will/won't</i>	1 For general predictions	<i>I think Spain will win the World Cup.</i>
	2 For decisions made at the time of speaking	<i>Wait there, I'll answer the door.</i>
Present continuous	For arrangements	<i>I'm meeting my friends at 6 pm tonight.</i>
Present simple	For timetables or routines	<i>The train leaves at 9 am tomorrow.</i>
Future continuous	For activities in progress at a particular time	<i>Don't call me at 8 pm because I'll be having dinner.</i>
Future perfect simple	For activities that will be finished by a certain time	<i>I'll have finished my project by Friday when we have to hand it in.</i>
Future perfect continuous	To talk about how long an activity will be in progress before a certain time	<i>My family will have been living abroad for five years this September.</i>
<i>be on the verge/point of</i>	To talk about something that is going to happen very soon	<i>Scientists are on the verge of a breakthrough in their research.</i>

2 Choose the correct alternative.

- 1 The train to Hull leaves/is going to leave at 6.45.
- 2 We will/are going to go shopping on Saturday.
- 3 I am meeting/will meet Jack at the station at 6.00.
- 4 Perhaps we'll have/'re having lunch at that new place on West Street.
- 5 Look at the clouds. I think it's raining/going to rain.
- 6 Jack is going to/will look for a present for Emily.
- 7 I'll be back in five minutes. I'm going to/will take the dog for a walk.
- 8 There's someone at the door. Don't worry, I'll/'m going to open it.

3 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

- 1 I (call) you when I know the results of the exam.
- 2 The match (start) at 7.30. Don't be late.
- 3 you (do) anything special on Saturday?
- 4 Hi Mum, I'm stuck in a traffic jam. I (be) late for dinner.
- 5 We (visit) my brother in Holland sometime next year. We're not sure when.
- 6 I'm sure you (feel) better soon. It's only a cold.
- 7 I'm (get) my hair cut on Friday. I made an appointment last week.
- 8 I can't go out this evening. I (try) to finish the science project I have to do.

4 Read the situations and decide what you would say in each case.

- 1 Your computer is making a strange noise again.
Oh no! It (crash).
- 2 Your friend wants to meet this afternoon, but you have a dentist's appointment.
I'm sorry. I (see).
- 3 You're waiting for a friend at the train station, but you don't know the arrival time.
Excuse me. What time (get in)?
- 4 Your teacher asks you for your predictions about crime in your country.
I think the crime rate (improve).
- 5 A classmate suggests that you talk about some homework this evening, but you're tired.
I'm sorry. I (go to bed).
- 6 You arrive at the library, but you don't know the closing time.
What time (close)?
- 7 A friend has lost their mobile phone.
Don't worry. I (lend).
- 8 Your team isn't playing well and you have a difficult opponent in the next match.
I think we (lose).

2 Is the underlined part of the sentence correct? If not, rewrite it.

- 1 As soon as the class will start, I'll take my books out.
- 2 Don't worry. I'm going to answer the door.
- 3 The weather forecast says it's raining next weekend.
- 4 Some scientists predict that there will be a new Ice Age.
- 5 The concert takes place next July.
- 6 That's it! I've got my tickets. My friends and I will go to the cinema tonight.
- 7 What are your plans? What do you do next weekend?
- 8 I've already decided that next year I'm eating healthier food.
- 9 Next year February will have twenty-nine days.
- 10 Look at that waiter! He'll drop all those plates.

1 Choose the correct alternative.

- 1 Be careful! The train will/is going to leave.
- 2 Can I change my appointment to this afternoon because I 'll leave/'m leaving tomorrow.
- 3 I've checked the school timetable and the exams end/are ending in June.
- 4 I go/'ll go to the shops as soon as they open.
- 5 We 'll go/'re going to see a film at the cinema tonight, so don't call then.
- 6 The prime minister predicts that inflation is falling/will fall next year.

Advanced future forms

2 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs given. In 2–7, use the future continuous, future perfect or future perfect continuous.

- 1 The final whistle is about to go and the team are on the verge of _____ (make) history!
- 2 Next month, my dad _____ (work) at the same company for 30 years.
- 3 Don't call me at 6 pm because I _____ (have) my driving lesson.
- 4 Mum will have her car back by the weekend because the mechanic _____ (fix) it by then.
- 5 By 2 pm, he _____ (run) for over six hours!
- 6 This time next month we _____ (lie) next to the pool on holiday.
- 7 My parents are celebrating next month because by then, they _____ (marry) for 20 years.

3 Decide if the sentences are correct or incorrect. Tick (✓) the correct sentences and rewrite the incorrect sentences.

- 1 When your plane arrives, a representative from the company will wait for you to take you to your hotel.
- 2 It's a pity that they're going to close the gym. This time next month, I'll have gone there for six years.
- 3 It'll take too long to drive to Manchester so we're going to take the train.
- 4 Once I've finished this book, I'll have been reading all of the novels by this author.
- 5 Look at those clouds! I don't think we should go out now because it'll rain.
- 6 I'm having lunch with Sam today. There are some things we need to discuss.
- 7 Do you think you'll still have been living in London in five years' time?

3 Complete the sentences with an appropriate future form of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 Next Sunday it _____ (be) my birthday.
- 2 Kate and I _____ (meet) at 9 o'clock tonight.
- 3 What _____ you _____ (do) next summer?
- 4 Do you think it _____ (snow) next week?
- 5 Alice is pregnant. She _____ (have) a baby.
- 6 As soon as I _____ (get) home tonight, I _____ (switch) on the TV.
- 7 I _____ (see) the doctor tomorrow. The appointment is for half past ten.
- 8 I think humans _____ (land) on the moon again before I _____ (be) fifty.
- 9 Take an umbrella. It _____ (rain).

3 Complete the sentences with the future continuous or future perfect form of the verbs in brackets.

'The future is a mystery. What (a)
I (do) when I'm thirty? Will I be
unemployed or (b) I
(work)? I know that I (c) (finish) school, and
I imagine I (d) (leave) university because
not many people continue studying at the age of thirty. One
thing I do know is that I (e) (not live) in
this town because I want to leave here when I go to university.
I'm sure I (f) (learn) to drive by the time
I'm thirty because that's one of the first things I want to do
when I'm eighteen. I don't think I (g)
(buy) a car because they're really expensive, but I imagine I
(h) (save) up my money each month to
buy one. The future's a mystery, but I know it's going to be
interesting.'

Future continuous, future perfect, future perfect continuous

3 Decide if the sentences are correct. Rewrite the incorrect sentences and tick the correct sentences.

- 1 I can't go out at 7 o'clock because I'll have done my homework then.
- 2 She started driving home at 3pm. By 6pm she'll have been driving for three hours.
- 3 Don't call me at 9 o'clock because I'll be watching a film with Lara in the cinema.
- 4 I can write a summary of the book tomorrow because I'll be reading it by then.
- 5 At 5 o'clock next Saturday I'll have been playing basketball.
- 6 I can't give you my assignment tomorrow because I won't be finishing it.
- 7 I'll be wearing my new jacket when I go to Paul's party tomorrow.