

**What would you say in these situations? Use the correct form of the future.**

1. You intend to go to Australia for your holiday next year.

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2. You have already arranged to meet your sister this evening.

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3. At this time tomorrow you expect to be in the process of walking to school.

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4. The weather has become very cold and the sky has turned black. This means snow very soon.

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5. You've looked at the train timetable for the weekend. It says the departure time of your train is 7.15 in the morning.

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6. After your exams have finished your plan is to travel round the world on a motorbike.

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7. There is a strong possibility of a rise in the price of food next year. This is your prediction.

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8. Your plane is scheduled to land at 11.15 at night.

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**The future**

There are many ways of talking about future time in English.  
This is a summary of the most common forms and their uses.

**1 Present continuous**

The present continuous is used to future actions or events which have already been arranged.

*Are you doing anything interesting at the weekend?*

*We're spending the summer with our friends in Greece.*

**2 Will**

**A Will + infinitive (future simple)**

The will future is used to talk about:

- **future facts**  
*The sun will rise at 6.30 tomorrow morning.*
- **predictions or expectations**  
*Helen won't be here on time. She's always late.*
- **strong intentions**  
*When Ann retires, I'll definitely apply for her job.*
- **instant decisions about the immediate future**  
*The phone's ringing. I'll answer it.*

**B Will + be a -ing**

This form is used to talk about:

- **events or actions that will be in progress at a specific time in the future**  
*This time tomorrow, I'll be travelling through France.*

- **predicted or expected trends**  
*In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, people will be living to the age of 120.*

### **3 Going to + infinitive**

This is used to talk about

- **intentions or plans**  
*After Christmas, I'm going to get a job and save up.*
- **predictions based on present evidence or knowledge**  
*My sister's going to have a baby.*

### **4 Present simple**

This tense is used to talk about scheduled, timetabled or fixed events.

*The match starts at 7.30 tomorrow evening.*

### **Answer key:**

- 1 I'm going to go to Australia for my holiday next year.
- 2 I'm meeting my sister this evening.
- 3 At this time tomorrow I'll be walking to school.
- 4 It's going to snow very soon.
- 5 My train leaves at 7.15 in the morning.
- 6 After my exams have finished, I'm going to travel round the world on a motorbike.
- 7 The price of food will (almost certainly/ probably) go up next year.
- 8 My plane lands at 11.15 at night.