

The Future - revision

A 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.
.....
2. You have already arranged to meet your sister this evening.
.....
3. At this time tomorrow you expect to be in the process of walking to school.
.....
4. The weather has become very cold and the sky has turned black. This means snow very soon.
.....
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.
.....
6. After your exams have finished your plan is to travel round the world on a motorbike.
.....
7. There is a strong possibility of a rise in the price of food next year. This is your prediction.
.....
8. Your plane is scheduled to land at 11.15 at night.
.....

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 21st 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.

Practice

B Underline the best form.

- 1 Ann is *going to / will* have a baby.
- 2 Perhaps I *will see / am seeing* you again one day.
- 3 'There's someone at the door.' 'I *go / I'll go*'.
- 4 I promise I *tell / I'll tell* you tomorrow.
- 5 I *will see/ am seeing* the doctor tomorrow at 10.30.
- 6 Look – Joe *is going to / will show* us something interesting.
- 7 'I don't want to drive.' 'OK. I'm *going to/ I'll* drive.'
- 8 'Shall we go out?' 'No, I'll / I'm *going to* wash my clothes.'

Answer key:

A

- 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.

B

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- 6 Look – Joe is going to us something interesting.
- 7 'I don't want to drive.' 'OK. I'll drive'.
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