

5

The future 1: *will, be going to, present continuous, present simple*

I'm going to ask her to marry me.

Tim: How are things with Jo?

Dan: Great! Actually, I've decided I'm going to ask her to marry me.



Tim: Congratulations!

Dan: Thanks. But what if ...?

Tim: Don't worry! She **won't** say no! Not to a good-looking guy like you!

Mike: **Are you going** to Dan's wedding?

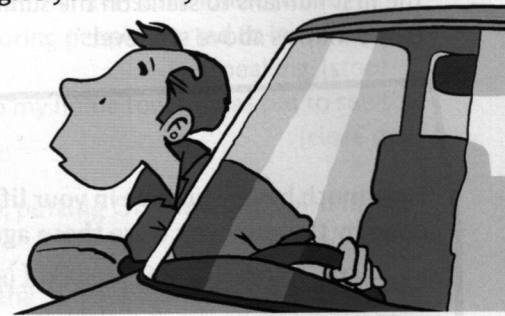
Tim: Of course – I'm the best man!

Mike: Oh yes! **Are you giving** a speech? **What are you going to say?** I hope it's **going to be** funny!

Tim: Well, there'll **be** some jokes, so I **hope** it's funny.

Mike: How **are you getting** there? **Are you going to drive?**

Tim: Yes. I'll **give** you a lift if you like.



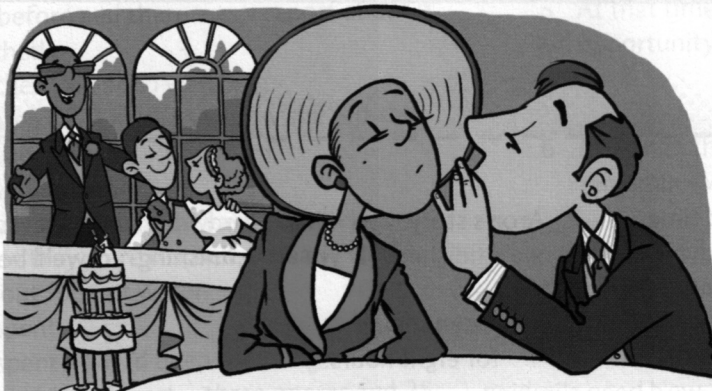
Mike: OK. Great. What time **are you going to leave?**

Tim: Well, the wedding is at 2 and it'll **take** a couple of hours to get there, so ... I think I'll **set off** about 11.30.

Mike: Great! I'll **come** round to your house at about 11.15, then.

Mike: Look, it's Tim. It looks like he's **going to give** his speech.

Sally: Great! This'll **be** interesting.



Mike: Why?

Sally: Because we'll **find** out what Dan's really like. All his secrets. Isn't that what a best man's speech is for?

?

- 1 Who is getting married, and what time is the wedding?
- 2 Who is the best man, and what does he have to do?

Answers: 1 Dan (and Jo); 2 2 o'clock 2 Tim; he has to give a speech about Dan.

The future 1

Will

Will is the most common way to refer to future time.

- 1 We use *will / won't* + infinitive to make confident predictions about future events or situations.

This'll be interesting.

She won't say no! Not to a good-looking guy like you!

- 2 We use *will / won't* + infinitive for things we decide quickly at the moment of speaking.

I'll come round to your house at about 11.15, then.

- 3 We use *will / won't* + infinitive to make offers or promises.

I'll let you know as soon as it's ready.

- ▶ See Units 9 and 10 for other uses of *will*.

Be going to

- 4 We use *be going to* + infinitive for the future when there is present evidence that something is going to happen, when the event is already starting / starting very soon, and (particularly in informal style) for present plans / intentions for the future.

It looks like he's going to give his speech.

I'm going to ask her to marry me.

Present continuous

- 5 Use the present continuous to talk about already fixed plans / arrangements.

Are you giving a speech? (asking if this has already been arranged)

TIP

Use *will* or *be going to* + infinitive, not the present continuous, for predictions about events which are out of your control.

It'll take / 's going to take a couple of hours to get there.

NOT *It's taking ...*

Present simple

- 6 We usually use the present simple for known facts about the future or future events which are part of a fixed timetable.

The wedding is at 2.

What time does your train leave tomorrow?

Will or be going to

- 7 We can often use either *will* or *be going to* + infinitive for facts / predictions about the future.

Christmas Day will be / is going to be on a Friday next year.

- 8 We usually use *will* (or *won't*) + infinitive to say things about the future based on personal opinions / beliefs. We usually use *be going to* + infinitive to make predictions when there is clear outside evidence.

She'll have lots of children. (= I know she wants to have lots.)

She's going to have a baby. (= She's already pregnant.)

- ▶ See Unit 9 for *might*, *may* and *could* to indicate different levels of certainty when making predictions.

TIP

We often use *expect*, *hope*, *imagine*, *think*, *wonder if*, *be sure* and (in more informal situations) *bet*, *reckon* before *will* or *be going to* when we make predictions.

I hope it's going to be funny.

Will, be going to or present continuous

- 9 We can often use either *be going to* + infinitive or the present continuous, not *will*, for present plans / intentions / expectations for the future.

I can't meet you after work tonight. I'm going to see / I'm seeing a film with Kath. NOT *I'll see a film ...*

If we are only considering a plan and are still not sure, we sometimes use *will* after *I think*.

I think I'll leave about 11.30.

- ▶ See Unit 34 for more information on the use of present forms with future time reference.

TIP

With the verb *go*, we usually use the present continuous instead of *be going to go*.

Are you going to Dan's wedding? (instead of *Are you going to go ...?*)

- 10 After words like *when*, *after*, *before*, *as soon as*, *if*, *unless* and *until* we use the present simple (or the present perfect), not a future form, although we are talking about future time.

When you arrive home, you can tell me about your journey. NOT *When you will arrive ...*

Will, be going to, present continuous or present simple

- 11 We can sometimes use either *will*, *be going to*, the present continuous or the present simple with little or no difference in meaning. This is usually for official future events which we see as out of our control.

The new boss will start / is going to start / is starting / starts / tomorrow.

We usually use *will* in a more formal style, e.g. in invitations, public notices, etc.

The wedding reception will begin at 8.30.

Practice

A Cross out the ONE incorrect option.

- 1 I *am going to cycle / am cycling / ~~eyele~~* into town. Can I get you anything?
- 2 We believe the company *will create / is going to create / is creating* more jobs in the area in the next year.
- 3 According to the weather forecast it *snows / is going to snow / will snow* later.
- 4 Now is a good time to buy a house, because prices *will definitely go up / definitely go up / are definitely going to go up* soon.
- 5 Chris *isn't going to come out / doesn't come out / isn't coming out* with us next Saturday.
- 6 *Do you watch / Are you watching / Are you going to watch* the match tomorrow?
- 7 Hi Jon, it's Trevor. Listen, we *will have / are having / are going to have* a barbecue on Sunday – do you want to come?
- 8 These flowers *aren't lasting / won't last / aren't going to last* very long without water.

B Complete the dialogues, using appropriate future forms of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 A: It's going to be a really boring party.
B: No it's not. Graeme *'s going / 's going to go* and he's always good fun. (go)
- 2 A: I'm sorry, we've run out of beef.
B: Oh, OK. I chicken then, please. (have)
- 3 A: Why do you need a new laptop?
B: My old one's very old and it working one of these days. (stop)
- 4 A: Do you need a babysitter to look after the children tonight?
B: No, it's OK. They with my mum. (stay)
- 5 A: It's a bit hot in here, isn't it?
B: Just a second. I the window. (open)
- 6 A: Have you got a hammer I can borrow?
B: No, sorry. Ask Terry. I bet he you one. (lend)
- 7 A: Do you want to play tennis this afternoon?
B: I can't. I my sister and her husband to the airport. (take)
- 8 A: I've got an appointment with Doctor Patel.
B: That's fine. Take a seat and we you when she's free. (call)

C Complete each sentence b so that it has a similar meaning to sentence a. Use two to six words, including the word in brackets.

- 1 a What are your holiday plans for next summer? (you)
b *Where are you going* on holiday next summer?
- 2 a It's Gary's 21st birthday on Thursday. (be)
b Gary 21 on Thursday.
- 3 a It's going to be impossible for us to come on Friday. (able)
b We on Friday.
- 4 a I've got an appointment with a new client this afternoon. (meeting)
b I this afternoon.
- 5 a The departure time of your flight is 19.25. (at)
b Your 19.25.
- 6 a There's no chance of the situation improving in the next few years. (definitely)
b The situation in the next few years.
- 7 a I haven't seen Ellie for years. I don't think I'll recognise her. (bet)
b I haven't seen Ellie for years. recognise her.
- 8 a The Bank of England has announced an increase in interest rates for the end of the month. (is)
b The Bank of England at the end of the month.

D Complete the dialogues, using the words in brackets and correct future verb forms.

- 1 A: There's no milk left.
B: OK. I *'ll go and get some. I'll be back* in five minutes. (go / get / some. I / be / back)
- 2 A: How are Sam's exams going?
B: OK, I think. His last one when it's over. (be / next Tuesday. He / be / very happy)
- 3 A: I have to go now, but I'll probably see you at Helen's party on Saturday.
B: Actually, I (go / away / for the weekend / so I / not / be able to go)
- 4 A: We should get together soon. I haven't seen you for ages.
B: Good idea! In fact, what Would you like to come? (you / do / next weekend? I / have / a barbecue on Sunday)
- 5 A: What kinds of new inventions can you imagine in the next 100 years?
B: I don't know, but a machine for going back in time! (I / not / think / anyone / invent)

- 6 A: When will I know the results of the interview?
B: Well, we
.....
early next week.
(interview / more people this week, / then we / let you know / our decision)
- 7 A: Where shall I meet you tonight? At the cinema?
B: No, the film
.....
in the Blue Café from about 7.
(start / at 8 but / we / have a coffee first. / We / be)
- 8 A: What's the matter with Sue? She seems worried about something.
B: Yes, she is! She
..... too difficult for her!
(start / her new / job tomorrow. / She / think / it / be)

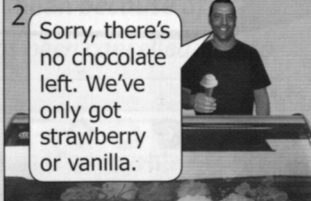
E Complete the dialogues, using appropriate future forms of the verbs in brackets.

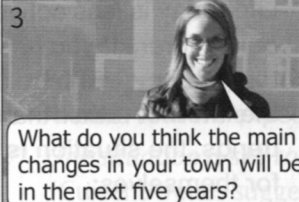
- 1 A: *When is Elena's birthday?* ? (be)
B: On 22 April. She'll be 17.
- 2 A: ? (arrive)
B: Half past three. As long as it's on time.
- 3 A: ? (snow)
B: No, I don't think so. It hardly ever snows here.
- 4 A: ? (do)
B: I'm going to have dinner with some friends.
- 5 A: ? (have)
B: Probably pasta or something like that.
- 6 A: ? (win)
B: The next election? No idea! I hate politics!
- 7 A: ? (buy)
B: I'm not sure. Maybe a book, because I know she likes reading.
- 8 A: ? (stay)
B: No, with some friends actually. They live right next to the beach.


MY TURN!

In your notebook, write replies to these people which are true for you. Use the future forms from this unit.


1  What are your plans for next weekend?

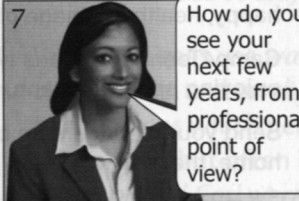
2  Sorry, there's no chocolate left. We've only got strawberry or vanilla.

3  What do you think the main changes in your town will be in the next five years?

4  Tell me what ideas you've had for improving your English skills in the next few weeks.

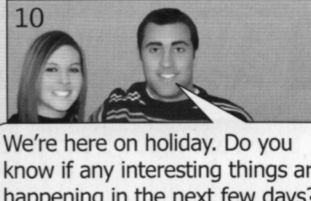
5  What's the weather forecast for the next couple of days?

6  What are all your friends doing for a holiday this year?

7  How do you see your next few years, from a professional point of view?

8  Maybe we can arrange a meeting. What's your diary like for next week?

9  Thanks again for inviting me for dinner tonight. What's on the menu?

10  We're here on holiday. Do you know if any interesting things are happening in the next few days?

Example: 1 I'm probably going to stay at home.

MY TEST!

Circle the correct option.

- 1 I'm feeling tired. I think to bed. a I go b I'll go c I would go
- 2 How long you to drive to our house next Tuesday? a does it take b is it taking c will it take
- 3 I hope she no tomorrow when I ask her to marry me. a isn't saying b won't say c hasn't said
- 4 I reckon their wedding present when they open it. a they'll love b they love c they're loving
- 5 I can't go out with you tomorrow. my sister move into her new flat. a I help b I'll help c I'm helping