**English Tenses: Future tenses**

**The Future Simple (*Will* Vs *Going to*)**

**“will” is used : “be going to” is used:**

(*Preferred in formal written English*) (*Preferred in spoken English*)

* to express general intention \* To express present intention.
* He **will change** his job. – I **am going to start** my own business (I have decided to start)
* For predictions/ guesses(when there is no evidence) \*For predictions (when there is evidence -we know it because

based on our opinion or our past experience. of the situation now/ we can feel, see…it)

* It **will snow** in winter. - She **is going to have** a baby
* I do not think she **will accept** the offer. - Look at those black clouds. It **is going to rain**.

- I imagine the stadium **will be full** for the match - It is ten already. We **are going to be** late.

 of Saturday (prediction based on past experience)

*→ We often use* ***will*** *with I'm sure, I think, I expect and probably.*

 *Sometimes there is not much difference between “****will****” and “****going to****”. For example, we can say:*

* *I think the weather* ***will be*** *nice later.*
* *I think the weather* ***is going to be*** *nice later.*
* For decisions made at the moment of speaking (spontaneous action) \*For something already decided before. (actions with
* George phoned while you were out. - Ah, ok. I **will phone** him back. plan/intention/thought)

 - George phoned while you were out. – Yes, I know

 I**’m going** to phone him back.

* To express offer
* **Shall** I **hold** the door open for you? - That looks heavy. I **will help** you with it.
* To express promise
* Do not worry. I **will pay** you back soon. - You **will/shall be** the first to know. (I promise)
* To express request.
* **Will** you send me an email to confirm the meeting?
* For invitations.
* **Shall/will** we **have** dinner together, tonight?
* For refusal.
* I **will not accept** such a decision.
* To express threat.
* I **will dismiss** you from service.
* For formal orders. It expresses the order as a definite

 future action. This emphasizes the authority of the speaker.

* You **will leave** the building immediately.

**Notes:**

* *With* *verbs of movement, especially* ***go*** *and* ***come****, we often use the present continuous rather than be going to.*
* *I am going out in a minute. I have got some shopping to do.*
* *Barbara is coming round for a chat tonight.*

 *“I am going to go out” and “Barbara is going to come round” are possible but less usual.*

* *We use be going to (not will) when the future action is very close.*
* *Help! I am going to fall!*

 ***→*** *Compare the meanings of these verb forms.*

 *The cinema* ***closed*** *last year. The cinema* ***has closed****.*

 *(in the past) (past action related to the present)*

 *The cinema* ***will close*** *in November. The cinema* ***is going to close*** *soon.*

 *(in the future) (future action related to the present)*

**Practice**: **Choose “will” or “be going to” , whichever is correct or more likely**.

1. Get out of the building! It sounds like the generator (will explode/ is going to explode).
2. If you do not stop, I (will/ am going to tell) your mother.
3. Tim (will/ is going to retire) early before he reaches 65. He mentioned it at the meeting recently.
4. Next year, no doubt, more people (will/ are going to enter) the competition as the prize money increases.
5. Don’t sit on that bench; I (will/ am going to paint) it.
6. She (will not/ is not going to listen) to anything I say.
7. Peter and Jane have bought a little beach house. They (will/ are going to retire) to the beach.
8. Do not worry. I (will not / am not going to tell) anyone.
9. My team (will not/ is not going to win) the league this season.
10. Closed over the New Year period, this office (will / is going to re-open) on 2nd January.
11. ‘Your shoes are dirty’. ‘Yes, I know I (will/ am going to clean) them.’

 **Present tense forms for the future**

* We use the **present continuous** for what someone has arranged to do.
* I **am meeting** Gavin at the club tonight.
* What **are** you **doing** tomorrow? (What did you decide to do/ arranged to do?)
* Julie **is going** to Florida. (This suggests that Julie has made arrangements such as buying her ticket**.)**

*The meaning is similar to “be going to” for an intention, and in many contexts we can use either form.* **But** *do not use “will”.*

* *We* ***are visiting****/ We* ***are going to visit*** *friends at the weekend.*

**BE CAREFUL →** We cannot use a state verb in the continuous.

* Gavin **will b**e at the club tonight. **NOT** - Gavin is being at the club tonight.
* We can sometimes use **the present simple** for the future, but only for what we see as part of an **official timetable/program**.
* The Cup Final **is** on May7th. - The train **leaves** at 4.40 p.m. - The sun **rises** at 5.45 tomorrow.
* We **change** at Birmingham. - What time **do** you **arrive** in Helsinki?

→We **do not** use the present simple when we talk about **PERSONAL PLANS** or **PREDICTIONS**. Instead we use will, going to, or the present continuous.

* I am really exhausted. I **am just staying** into watch TV tonight **NOT** ... I just stay in...
* We often use the present simple for future time in an adverbial clause with “**if, when, as, while, before, after, until,**

**by the time and as soon as**”. This happens when both clauses are about the future.

* If we **meet** at seven, we **will have** plenty of time.
* Mr. Dudley **is going to move** to the sea side when he **retires**.
* By the time you **get** this letter, I **will be** in Singapore.
* **Call** me as soon as you **have** any news. **NOT**  Call me as soon as you will have any news.