The future

A Present tenses: future meaning

Present simple

- The train leaves at 8.00 p.m. on Sunday.
- The film doesn’t start until 7.30.
- What time is your flight tomorrow?

1 We use the Present simple to talk about actions in the future determined by timetables and fixed programmes.

Present continuous

- I’m seeing the optician next week.
- We aren’t doing anything tomorrow.
- Are they getting married soon?

1 We use the Present continuous to talk about definite arrangements for the future, such as plans and appointments.

2 We often use it with a future time expression like at 3 o’clock, tonight, tomorrow, next weekend.

B be going to

- I’m going to work really hard this term.
- She’s going to tell you a secret.
- We aren’t going to go on holiday this year.
- He isn’t going to come to the party.
- Is he going to buy a new scooter?
- Yes, he is.
- No, he isn’t.

1 We use be going to + the base form of the verb:
   - to talk about future intentions;
     - I’m going to study Chemistry next year.
   - to make predictions about the future based on things we know or can see now.
     - John’s going to be really angry.
     - Oh look! I think it’s going to rain.

2 When we use going to go or going to come in spoken English, we usually omit going to to avoid repetition.
   - They’re coming to visit us tomorrow.
   - NOT They’re going to come.
   - We’re going to the cinema tonight.
   - NOT We’re going to go.

3 We use be about to + the base form of the verb to talk about an imminent event.
   - Can I call you back? I’m about to go out.
   - Be quiet – the film’s about to begin.

4 We use was about to to talk about an intention or something we planned, but didn’t do.
   - I was going to see Patrick, but he called to cancel.

C Modal verbs will, may and might

will

- I will/I’ll come to the concert.
- The world’s population will continue to grow.
- She will not/won’t pass the exam.
- We will not/won’t be late.
- Will the party be good?
- Yes, it will.
- No, it won’t.

1 We use will/won’t + the base form of the verb:
   - to express a decision about the future taken at the moment of speaking;
     - I think I’ll get the bus home.
   - to make future promises:
     - I’ll call you as soon as I arrive.
   - to talk about future facts:
     - I’ll be 17 on my next birthday.
   - to make predictions about the future based on what we think, hope or expect will happen. We often use these expressions with will: I think, I don’t think, I’m sure, I believe, I hope, I expect. We also often use these adverbs: maybe, perhaps, probably, definitely, certainly. Maybe and perhaps go at the beginning of a sentence.
   - The other adverbs go after will, but before won’t.
     - I think he’ll say yes.
     - Maybe he’ll say yes.
     - It’ll probably rain later.
     - We certainly won’t be late.

2 Will is a modal verb so the third person singular does not take -s, and we do not use do/does to form the negative or questions. We usually use the contracted forms ’ll and won’t in spoken English.

3 Note: We usually say I don’t think... + will.
   - I don’t think it will rain. NOT I think it won’t rain.

may, might

- We might go to the cinema later.
- The exam may be difficult.
- She might not (mightn’t) come.
- They may not answer you.

1 We can also use the modal verbs may and might (= will perhaps) to talk about future possibilities.
   - It might rain. (= Perhaps it will rain.)

2 The negative forms are may not and might not or mightn’t. We do not say mayn’t.
A Present tenses: future meaning

1 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the Present simple or Present continuous and a verb from the box.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>visit</th>
<th>start</th>
<th>go</th>
<th>see</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>meet</td>
<td>kick off</td>
<td>leave</td>
<td>have</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 The exhibition **starts** on January 6th.
2 We **will visit** Cuba for Christmas.
3 I **will go** to see that film today.
4 The match **will start** at 3.00 p.m. on Saturday.
5 My Italian penpal **will see** us this summer.
6 Hurry up! The train **starts** in half an hour.
7 I **will go** to the dentist this afternoon.
8 Mel **will go**, Mark at the station later.

2 Complete the questions. Use the Present simple or continuous.

**1 What is she going to do tonight?**
A Nothing much. I'm staying in.
B

**2 What is she going to do?**
A The flight arrives at 10.00 in the morning.
B

**3 What are the students going to do?**
A I'm getting it next month.
B

**4 What is she going to do?**
A He's taking Francesca.
B

**5 What is he going to do?**
A We're having it at 8 o'clock.
B

**6 What is he going to do?**
A The concert begins at 8.30 p.m.
B

B be going to

3 Complete the sentences with the correct form of be going to and a verb from the box.

| stay | finish | be | pass | speak | get |

1 The sun's really hot. You're **going to get** burnt.
2 Look at the queue for the film. It's **going to sell out**.
3 He hasn't studied very hard for his exams. **He (not) is going to fail**.
4 She's hurt my feelings. **I (not) am going to see** her again.
5 That pizza's enormous! **Are you going to eat** it.
6 I **am going to stay** at home this weekend.

4 Complete the questions.

**1 What film** are you going to see?
A Extreme Risk.
B

**2 What** are you doing on holiday?
A I'm going to lie on the beach!
B

**3 When** is the match?
A I'm getting it next month.
B

**4 Why** are you selling your scooter?
A I'm going to sell it because I want a new one.
B

**5 Where** is the match?
A Dad's going to paint the house this summer.
B

**6 Where** is the house?
A They're going to go to Vietnam and Laos.
B

C Modal verbs will, may and might

5 Write full answers to the questions using will and the adverbs in brackets.

**1 Will you be home early tonight?** (definitely)
A Yes, I will be home early tonight.
B

**2 Do you think you'll get the job?** (probably not)
A
B

**3 Will she help you with the shopping?** (perhaps)
A
B

**4 Will the students get bored on the school trip?** (certainly not)
A
B

**5 Will you go to university when you finish school?** (probably)
A
B

**6 Will she see him again?** (maybe)
A
B

6 Complete the sentences with the correct form of will, may or might and a verb from the box.

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<tr>
<th>have</th>
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<th>get</th>
<th>help</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>remain</td>
<td>come</td>
<td>enjoy</td>
<td>know</td>
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1 I believe the UK **will remain** a monarchy.
2 I don't feel very well. I **may go** home tonight.
3 Please come to my party. You **may have** a great time!
4 Believe me, this film's really scary. You **will be afraid** it.
5 Ask Sam. He **might have** the answer.
6 We haven't decided where to go on holiday. We **are considering** to Trinidad.
7 That train is usually busy. We **probably go** a seat.
8 Don't worry. I'm sure Dad **will help** us.