

## FUTURE

### When should we use the **FUTURE**?

#### **WILL / SHALL / BE GOING TO**

### Will

1: We use the future simple with 'will' to predict the future. It is the basic way we talk about the future in English, and we often use it if there is no reason to use another future tense. We can use it for future facts and for things that are less certain.

- The sun will rise at 7am.
- I think the Conservatives will win the next election.

2: Promises / requests / refusals / offers. It's about wanting to do something or not wanting to do something in the future.

- I'll help you with your homework.
- Will you give me a hand?
- I won't go!

In a similar way, we often use 'will' when we're talking about a decision at the moment of speaking. We are usually making an offer or promise or talking about something that we want to do.

- A: It is very warm here. B: I'll switch the AC on

3: We use the simple future with 'will' in the first conditional, and in other sentences that have a conditional feeling.

- **If** it doesn't rain, we'll **go** to the park.
- Let's arrive early. That **will give** us time to relax.

## Shall

'Shall' is used mainly in the forms 'shall I?' and 'shall we?'. These forms are used when you want to get someone's opinion, especially for offers and suggestions.

- **Shall I** open the window? (= Do you want me to open the window?)
- Where **shall we** go tonight? (= What's your opinion?)

## Be going to

1: We often use 'be going to' to talk about our future intentions and plans. We have usually made our plans before the moment of speaking.

- A: We've run out of milk. B: I know, I'm **going to** buy some.

2: We can also use 'be going to' to make a prediction about the future. Often it's possible to use both 'be going to' and 'will' but it's more common to use 'be going to' if we can see evidence in the present.

- Look at those boys playing football! They're **going to** break the window.
- The sky is getting darker and darker. It's **going to** rain.

We use it whenever we want to talk about the past and we don't have any special situation that means we should use the past perfect, present perfect, past continuous etc.

### 'Will' or 'be going to'?

Put in 'will' or 'be going to':

1. A: We don't have any butter.  
B: I know. I \_\_\_\_\_ get some from the shop.
2. A: We don't have any sugar.  
B: Really? I \_\_\_\_\_ get some from the shop then.
3. A: Why do you need to borrow my rucksack?  
B: I \_\_\_\_\_ do the St James's Way next month.
4. A: I'm really cold.  
B: I \_\_\_\_\_ turn the heating on.
5. A: Are you going to John's party tonight?  
B: Yes. Are you going too? I \_\_\_\_\_ give you a lift.
6. A: What are your plans after you leave university?  
B: I \_\_\_\_\_ work in a hospital in Africa. I leave on the 28th
7. (The phone rings)  
A: I \_\_\_\_\_ get it!
8. A: Are you ready to order?  
B: I can't decide ... Okay, I \_\_\_\_\_ have the steak, please.
9. A: Are you busy tonight? Would you like to have coffee?  
B: Sorry. I \_\_\_\_\_ go to the library. I've been planning to study all day.
10. A: Why are you carrying a hammer?  
B: I \_\_\_\_\_ put up some pictures.

### Future simple or Present simple?

1. I \_\_\_\_\_ (come) to meet you at the station next weekend.
2. I \_\_\_\_\_ (wait) until you're finished – then we can go.
3. John will study until he \_\_\_\_\_ (know) all the answers.
4. She thinks that it \_\_\_\_\_ (rain) next weekend.
5. What do you want to do after the class \_\_\_\_\_ (finish)?
6. Before you \_\_\_\_\_ (leave), please make sure you've locked the door.
7. Theresa will come here after she \_\_\_\_\_ (finish) work.
8. She's going to look for a job as soon as she \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive) in New York.
9. I \_\_\_\_\_ (give) up smoking!
10. She \_\_\_\_\_ (send) me an email before she leaves the office later today.

Answers: Will or Be going to

1. I'm going to get some from the shop.
2. I'll get some from the shop then.
3. I'm going to do...
4. I'll turn the heating on
5. I'll give you a lift.
6. I'm going to work
7. I'll get it!
8. I'll have the steak.
9. I'm going to go to the library
10. I'm going to put

Answers: Future Simple or Present Simple

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2. I'll wait until you're finished – then we can go.
3. John will study until he knows all the answers.
4. She thinks that it will rain next weekend.
5. What do you want to do after the class finishes?
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