

18

the future: making predictions

FORM

will

affirmative

I / You / We / They **will** work.
He / She / It

negative

I / You / We / They **will not** (won't) work.
He / She / It

questions

Will I / you / we / they be okay?
he / she / it have a good time?

short answers

Yes, I / you / we / they will.
he / she / it
No, I / you / we / they will not (won't).
he / she / it

USE

We can use *will* + bare infinitive to express predictions or beliefs about the future.

*World temperatures **will** rise.*
*I'm sorry, but things **won't get** any better.*

We often introduce predictions with *I think*
*I **think** the DVD **will disappear** in ten years.*
*I **think** the exam **will be** difficult.*

We avoid saying *I think ... won't ...*
We say *I don't think ... will ...*

*I **don't think** money **will become** obsolete.*
NOT *I **think** money **won't become** obsolete.*
*I **don't think** it **will rain** this morning.*
NOT *I **think** it **won't rain** this morning*

We can use *will probably / possibly / definitely* or *probably / possibly / definitely won't* (notice the difference in word order) to show how certain we are that things will happen.

*The teacher thinks **we'll definitely** / **we definitely won't** pass the exam.*
*Scientists **will probably** / **probably won't** find a solution to global warming.*

FORM

going to

affirmative

I **am**
You / We / They **are going to** work.
He / She / It **is**

negative

I **am not**
You / We / They **aren't going to** work.
He / She / It **isn't**

questions

Am I
Are you / we / they **going to** start?
Is he / she / it

short answers

Yes, I am. No, I'm not.
Yes, he / she / it is. No, he / she / it isn't / 's not.
Yes, you / we / they are. No, you / we / they aren't / 're not.

USE

We can also use *to be + going to + bare infinitive* to make predictions.

*World temperatures **are going to** rise.*
*I'm sorry, but things **aren't going to get** any better.*
*No, there **isn't going to be** a war.*

In situations where we are sure about the future because of something we see in the present, we use *going to* to make predictions, not *will*.

*She's pregnant – she's **going to have** a baby.*
NOT *She **will have** a baby.*
*Look at those big black clouds! There's **going to be** a storm.* NOT *There **will be** a storm.*
*And Beckham passes to Owen. He's **going to score**.*
Goal! NOT *He **will score**.*

1 Use the prompts to write a sentence with *will*. Use short forms where possible.

- a you / have / time / finish / homework *You'll have time to finish your homework.*
 b they / select / you / for the football team
 c they / increase / taxes / next year
 d prices / not come down
 e I / not be / very long
 f it / not snow / this weekend
 g the football team / win / next match
 h he / not be / school / tomorrow

2 Use the prompts to write questions with *will*. Then write short answers.

- a it / rain / today
Will it rain today? ? No, *it won't.*
 b the polar ice-caps / melt ? Yes,
 c Jack / be rich ? Yes,
 d they / win / match ? No,
 e Isabel / finish / race ? No,
 f the police / catch / criminals ? Yes,
 g the machine / work ? No,
 h there / be / any help for us ? Yes,

3 Use the prompts to write sentences with *going to*. Use short forms where possible.

- a It's 08.30. Claire is still in bed. (miss / bus)
She's going to miss the bus.
 b John has the ball. There are no defenders near. The goalkeeper is in a bad position. (score / goal)

 c Dave is exhausted. There are still 10 km to run. (not / finish / race)

 d We are the home team. The score is 3-0. There are three minutes left. (win / match)

 e They haven't studied. They're bad at maths. The exam is tomorrow. (not / pass)

 f It's 10.00. The train leaves at 10.03. I'm 5 km from the station. (not / catch)

 g There's a bright blue sky with no clouds. (be / nice day)

 h It's very hot and humid. You can see big black clouds and lightning. (there / be / thunderstorm)

4 Use the prompts to write questions with *going to*. Then write a short answer.

- a it / rain
 Is it going to rain ? No, it isn't.
- b the bus / arrive on time
 ? Yes,
- c there / be / enough time
 ? No,
- d they / have / a good time
 ? Yes,
- e his plan / work
 ? Yes,
- f Sue / pass / exam
 ? No,
- g Kevin / earn / a lot of money
 ? No,
- h the students / learn / English
 ? Yes,

science

5 Complete the sentence with *will* or *won't* and one of the verbs in the box.

analyse be pay go watch need cure use help include lose check recognize

According to technology experts the products below will be the ten most successful by the year 2020.

- Genetics.** New medicines a will cure diseases like Parkinson's and Alzheimer's.
- Computers.** A PC b your voice and follow your commands. They c any cables.
- Cars.** Cars d petrol or diesel, but other fuels like electricity, and natural gas. A computer e travel conditions to select the best fuel to use.
- Home entertainment.** We f TV on large, flat screens. Computers g necessary because your TV will do everything.
- Money.** We h for everything with an electronic card.
- Health.** We i to the doctor so often. Robots at home j our health and warn us of problems.
- Satellite navigation.** GPS devices k fight crime by tracking the exact location of cars and other valuables.
- Beauty.** New beauty products l weight-control drugs, anti-wrinkle creams and cures for baldness so men m their hair.



6 What is your opinion? Use the prompts to write sentences with *will* or *won't*, and *possibly*, *probably* or *definitely*.

- a new medicines / cure Alzheimer's *Genetics will probably cure Alzheimer's.*
- b a computer / recognize the human voice
- c cars / use water / fuel
- d computers / still be necessary
- e we / use coins and notes
- f people / want robots to check their health
- g GPS / help fight crime
- h anti-wrinkle creams / work
- i men / stop going bald

7 Write the negative of each sentence.

- a I think that life is going to get better.
I don't think that life is going to get better.
- b We will run out of oil soon.
.....
- c We are going to have economic problems.
.....
- d I think they will invent intelligent robots.
.....
- e I think I am going to pass all my exams.
.....
- f An asteroid will probably hit the Earth in the next hundred years.
.....
- g The population of the world is going to decrease.
.....
- h I think we're going to have a good time tonight.
.....
- i In 20 years' time, people will use CDs.
.....
- j My football team is going to win.
.....

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

- a Write five predictions about yourself with *will*.
- b Write five predictions about yourself with *going to*.

19

the future: plans and decisions

FORM

I / You / We / They **will / won't** work.
He / She / It

I **am**
You / We / They **are** (not) **going to** work.
He / She / It **is**

USE

We can use *will*, *going to* and the present continuous to express decisions about future actions. We use present simple for future events if they are part of a timetable.

We use *going to* when we have decided to do something, that is, when we are talking about our intentions or plans.

I'm going to buy a laptop so I can work on the train.
He's going to work in the USA this summer.

We use present continuous to talk about future arrangements and plans, especially when they involve other people and have a time and date.

I'm going to see my tutor about my test results. (My intention – perhaps the tutor doesn't know.)
I'm seeing my tutor about my exam results on Monday at nine. (An arrangement with the tutor.)

When future events are part of a schedule or timetable we use present simple.

The winter term starts on 7 January.
The train leaves at 11.15 and arrives at 12.35.

will and shall

We use *will* and *shall* to show our intentions and attitudes towards other people.

We use *will* to express our desire or willingness to do things when

- reacting to present situations (making decisions at the moment of speaking).
'I can't do this.' 'Don't worry. I'll help you.'
[phone rings] *'It's for me. I'll get it.'*
- making threats or promises.
The next time you do that I'll send you out of the room.
Goodbye then. I'll phone you tomorrow to tell you what happened.
- making requests.
Will you carry this for me, please?
Will you all be quiet?

We use *shall* with *I* and *we* in question forms to

- make a request for advice.
What shall I tell him?
Shall I take a coat?
- make a suggestion or an offer.
Shall we go to the cinema tonight?
Shall I phone you about the homework?

1 Two students are discussing their IT projects. Underline the correct form.

- A Hi Dan. How is your IT project going?
 B Okay I suppose, **a** *I'll hand it in / I'm going to hand it in* next week.
 A I've heard you're doing a database application for the library.
 B That's right. It's all on schedule. **b** *We're testing it / We test it* over the next few days.
 A And you've got to write a user guide.
 B I know, it's a lot of work. I think **c** *I'm asking / I'll ask* someone for some help.
 A Yes, I had the same idea. **d** *I'll ask / I'm going to ask* Anne if she can help me.
 B I'm worried about the hardware installation. **e** *I'm doing / I'll do* it on Friday.
 A I suppose Mr Wright is supervising it.
 B Yes, I wanted to ask you a favour. Could you look at the program for me on Monday?
 A I'm sorry Dan, but **f** *I'm seeing / I'll see* Mr Wright about my own project on Monday.
g *I'm going to have / I'll have* a look at yours on Tuesday if you like.
 B Okay, thanks. **h** *I'll remind / I'm reminding* you later this week.

2 Put the verb in brackets in the most suitable form using *will*, *going to* or the present continuous.

- a A What are your plans for this evening?
 B We (see) *are going to see* a film. We bought the tickets on the Internet.
 b A Do you want to go out for a meal next week?
 B Yes, that would be nice. What about Wednesday? (do) you
 anything?
 c A Did you see that new TV programme last night?
 B Yes, I expect it (be) popular for a couple of months and then
 people (lose) interest.
 d A Well my darling, Happy New Year! Have you made any resolutions?
 B Yes, I (leave) you!
 e A Have you decided what to do when you leave school?
 B More or less. I (have) a holiday for a couple of months and then I
 (start) my university course.
 f A Are you ready to order, sir?
 B I'm not sure. Oh, I know. I (have) the roast chicken.
 g A I (take) you to the football match if you like.
 B No, thanks dad! I've spoken to John and his dad (take) us.
 h A Why are you turning on the TV?
 B I (watch) the news.
 i A I (do) some shopping.
 B Are you? I haven't got any toothpaste.
 A Oh, alright. I (get) some if you like.