

UNIT 5

The Future

Future Simple



A: I'm sure we'll **have** a great time at Joan's party tomorrow night.

B: Yes, I agree. All our friends **will be** there.

A: **Will** your father **let** you take the car?

B: No, I'm afraid he **won't**.

We form the future simple with **will** and the **bare infinitive**. Will is used for all persons.

e.g. Susan **will post** the letters tomorrow morning.

We form questions by putting **will** before the subject.

e.g. **Will** Kate lend you her book?

We form negations by putting **not** after **will**. The short form of will not is **won't**.

e.g. He **will not/won't** pay the bill.

Affirmative

Long form Short form

I	will	'll	} phone.
He/She/It	will	'll	
You/We/They	will	'll	

Interrogative

Will	I	} phone?
Will	he/she/it	
Will	you/we/they	

Negative

Long form Short form

I	will not	won't	} phone.
He/She/It	will not	won't	
You/We/They	will not	won't	

Use

We use the future simple:

- ◆ for future actions which may or may not happen.



We'll visit Disney World one day.

- ◆ for predictions about the future.
Life **will be** better fifty years from now.

- ◆ for threats or warnings.



Stop or I'll shoot.

- ◆ for promises or on-the-spot decisions.



I'll help you with your homework.

- ◆ with the verbs **hope**, **think**, **believe**, **expect**, etc., the expressions **I'm sure**, **I'm afraid**, etc. and the adverbs **probably**, **perhaps**, etc.

I **think** he **will** support me.

He **will probably** go to work.

Time Expressions

Time expressions used with the future simple include:

tomorrow, the day after tomorrow, next week/month/year, tonight, soon, in a week/month/year, etc.

1 What will life be like in the 21st century? Look at the prompts and make sentences using *will* or *won't*, as in the example.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1 People / live longer | ✓ |
| People will live longer. | |
| 2 Robots / do most of the work | ✓ |
| 3 People / use electric cars | ✗ |
| 4 Pollution / disappear | ✓ |
| 5 People / die of serious diseases | ✗ |
| 6 Children / stop going to school | ✗ |
| 7 People / go on holiday to the moon | ✓ |

Will/ Shall

We use:

- ◆ **Will you ...?** to ask someone to do something for us (request).
e.g. *Will you post these letters for me, please?*
(= *Can you post these letters for me, please?*)
- ◆ **Shall I ...?** when we offer to do something for someone else.
e.g. *Shall I help you clean your room?*
(= *Do you want me to help you clean your room?*)
- ◆ **Shall we ...?** to make a suggestion.
e.g. *Shall we go to the theatre tonight?*
(= *Why don't we go to the theatre tonight?*)

2 Ask questions using the prompts, as in the example.

- 1 The garden is very untidy. (I / cut / the grass)
Shall I cut the grass?
- 2 It's a lovely evening. (we / go for / a walk)
.....
- 3 I need a hot drink. (I / make / some tea)
.....
- 4 It's very quiet in here. (I / turn on / the radio)
.....
- 5 The Smiths are back. (we / visit / them)
.....
- 6 I've cut my finger. (I / get / a plaster)
.....

3 What does *will/shall* express in each sentence? Underline the correct meaning.

- 1 Tidy your room or I won't let you go to the party.
(threat/request)
- 2 Your daughter will have a very successful career.
(warning/prediction)

- 3 Shall I carry your shopping bags for you?
(offer/suggestion)
- 4 I'll buy a present for my mother.
(on-the-spot decision/prediction)
- 5 Will you take out the rubbish, please?
(suggestion/request)

4 Replace the words in *italics* with *Will you*, *Shall I* or *Shall we*, as in the example.

- 1 Why don't we spend our holidays in Spain this summer?
Shall we spend our holidays in Spain this summer?
- 2 Do you want me to go to the supermarket for you?
.....
- 3 Can you pick up the children from school for me, please?
.....
- 4 Why don't we listen to that new CD?
.....
- 5 Do you want me to book the tickets for you?
.....
- 6 Can you take my jacket to the dry-cleaner's for me, please?
.....

Short Answers

e.g. Will you pay the bills? Yes, I will.

Will you ...?	Yes, I/we will.
	No, I/we won't.
Will he/she/it ...?	Yes, he/she/it will.
	No, he/she/it won't.
Will they ...?	Yes, they will.
	No, they won't.

5 In pairs, ask and answer questions using the prompts below, as in the example.

SA: *Will you have a party on your birthday this year?*
SB: *Yes, I will. / No, I won't.*

- 1 have a party on your birthday this year?
- 2 go to university when you finish school?
- 3 travel abroad if you have enough money?
- 4 go out with your friends at the weekend?
- 5 watch TV this evening?
- 6 study hard for next term's exams?
- 7 learn how to drive next summer?

6

Answer the following questions about yourself using *I think/I hope/I expect I'll ... or I'm sure/I'm afraid I'll ...*, as in the example.

- Where will you be at 5 o'clock tomorrow afternoon?
I expect I'll be at home.
- Where will you go at the weekend?
- Where will you spend your holidays?
- What will you do if you fail your exams?
- When will you buy your own car?
- Who will you ask for help if you are in trouble?

NOTE:

We do not use the future simple after: **while**, **before**, **until**, **as soon as**, **after**, **if** and **when**. We use the present simple instead.

e.g. *I'll make a phone call while I wait for you.*
(NOT: ... ~~while I will wait for you.~~)

"When" can be followed by the future simple if it is used as a **question word**.

e.g. *When will you return?*
I don't know when Helen will be back.

"When" is followed by the present simple if it is used as a **time word**.

e.g. *Please phone me when you finish work.*

7

Put the verbs in brackets into the present simple or the future simple.

- They ...*will'll go*... (go) to school when they (be) five years old.
- I (call) you before I (leave) for Paris.
- He (write) a letter to her every day while he (be) at college.
- We (do) our homework when we (get) home.
- John (fix) the tap as soon as he (come) back from work.
- When (you/pack) your suitcase?
- I (not/do) anything until you (be) ready.
- When (you/phone) me?
- I promise I (buy) you a present when I (return) from my holiday.
- When she (pass) her driving test, she (buy) a car.

Be Going To



He is going to throw the ball.

We use **be going to**:

◆ for plans and intentions we have about the near future.

e.g. *Bob is going to drive to Manchester tomorrow morning.*

◆ when there is evidence that something is going to happen in the near future.

e.g. *Look at that tree. It is going to fall down.*

Affirmative

	Long form	Short form	
I	am	'm	} going to leave.
He/She/It	is	's	
You/We/They	are	're	

Interrogative

Am	I	} going to leave?
Is	he/she/it	
Are	you/we/they	

Negative

	Long form	Short form	
I	am not	'm not	} going to leave.
He/She/It	is not	isn't	
You/We/They	are not	aren't	

8 Fill in each gap with *be going to* and one of the verbs from the list.

rescue, explode, jump, fall



1 She ...*is going to jump*... out of the plane.



2 The car
.....
into the river.



3 The aeroplane
.....
.....



4 He
.....
the boy.

Short Answers

e.g. Are you going to call him? Yes, I am.

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

9 Jennifer and Mark are going to spend their holidays in different places this summer. Look at the table. In pairs, ask and answer questions using the prompts given, as in the example.

SA: *Is Jennifer going to take her passport?*
SB: *Yes, she is.*

	JENNIFER	MARK
take/passport	✓	✓
travel/by train	✗	✓
buy/souvenirs	✓	✓
spend/much money	✓	✗
hire/a car	✓	✗

10 Fill in the gaps with *will/shall* or the correct form of *be going to* and the verb in brackets.

- A: (1) ...*Shall we go*... (we/go) to the football match on Saturday?
B: I can't. I (2) (help) my sister.
A: Oh yes. She is moving house, isn't she?
B: That's right. (3) (you/help) us?
A: Yes, I'd like to. What time (4) (I/come) to your house?
B: I'm not sure yet. I (5) (probably/phone) you on Friday to tell you. Is that alright?
A: Yes. I think I (6) (be) in then.
B: Okay. (7) (we/go) for a walk now?
A: I'd rather not. Look at those black clouds. It (8) (rain). Let's stay in and watch a video.
B: Great idea.

11 Fill in the gaps with *shall, will* or the correct form of *be going to*.

- 1 A: The shops are closed tomorrow.
B: I ...*will*... buy bread and milk today then.
2 A: we tell Mr Peck about the accident?
B: That's a good idea. Maybe he can help.
3 A: It's too dark in here to read.
B: Is it? I turn on the light.
4 A: Please come and see us.
B: We visit you soon, that's a promise.
5 A: I wear a jumper or a coat?
B: It's very cold. Take your coat.
6 A: Can we go out to play, Mum?
B: No, we have dinner now.

Compare the following examples

We can use the **future simple**, **be going to**, **present continuous** or **present simple** to talk about future actions.

- He'll sell his car.*
(will: the future action may or may not happen)
- She's going to study abroad next year.*
(be going to: to express intention)
- They're leaving for Mexico tomorrow.*
(present continuous: for an arranged action)
- The bus leaves at nine o'clock.*
(present simple: for timetables)

12

A Jonathan is not satisfied with his life as it is. He has already decided to change a number of things. Look at the prompts and say what he intends to do, as in the example.

- move to the city centre
He is going to move to the city centre.
- sell his car
- buy a bigger house
- marry Susan
- apply for a job with a law firm



B Now look at Jonathan's diary. What has he already arranged to do? Make sentences, as in the example.

- Monday, 8th April — move to/the city centre
He's moving to the city centre on Monday, 8th April.
- Tuesday, 9th April — Mr Brown come/collect/the car
- Wednesday, 10th April — sign the contract/for a new house
- Friday, 12th April — have an interview with Mr Ford at 10 o'clock
- Sunday, 20th June — get married

13

Put the verbs in brackets into the **present continuous** or the **present simple**.

- "...*is Gordon coming*... (Gordon/come) with us tonight?" "No, he ...*isn't*... (be/not)"
- My sister (go) to university in September.
- What time (the play/start) tomorrow?
- Natalie (have) a birthday party on Saturday.
- Megan (sing) in the school concert tomorrow night.
- The flight to Berlin (leave) at six o'clock.
- The Browns (move) to their new house this weekend.
- What time (the ferry/reach) Calais tomorrow afternoon?

14

Fill in the gaps with one of the verbs from the list in the correct tense.

walk, come, post



15 Correct the mistakes.

- 1 Will I take the children to the playground for you?
- 2 I'll call you when I will finish work.
- 3 Will you to clean the carpet, please?
- 4 The film is starting at 8 o'clock.
- 5 Wait here until he will come.
- 6 The Queen won't not attend the parade tomorrow.

Revision Box

16 Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense.

Dear Martha,

I 1) ...*'m writing*...
(write) to tell you my good news.

I 2)
(save) enough money from my part-time job and, at last, I 3)

..... (open) a flower shop. My father 4) (own) a shop years ago and he 5) (give) me some advice and suggestions. He 6) (think) that my shop 7) (be) a success, because there isn't another flower shop in the area.

The shop isn't ready yet. My brother 8) (already/paint) the inside of the shop and tomorrow he 9) (paint) the outside. I 10) (need) to buy a new sign. My mother 11) (want) me to call the shop "Rose", but I 12) (still/think) about it. Anyway, I just hope the local people 13) (like) it.

I 14) (start) work next Monday. I 15) (probably/phone) you some time next week if I 16) (have) time. Wish me luck.

Best wishes,
Nicky

ORAL Activity

Rob Brown and Molly Gould are opera singers. A reporter has interviewed them about their summer plans. Look at the table and, in pairs, ask and answer questions using the prompts, as in the example.

e.g. SA: Is Rob going to give any concerts in the summer?

SB: Yes, he is. Is Molly going to give any concerts in the summer?

SA: Yes, she is.



Rob Brown Molly Gould

	Rob Brown	Molly Gould
• give / concerts	✓	✓
• go / to India	✓	✗
• appear / in a TV show	✗	✓
• go on / holiday in August	✓	✓
• take part / in charity events	✓	✓
• sing / at the Queen Mother's birthday celebrations	✗	✗
• make / a record	✓	✗
• sing / in a rock opera	✗	✓

WRITING Activity

Look at your notes from the Oral Activity above and complete the newspaper article about Rob Brown and Molly Gould.

Rob Brown and Molly Gould, up-and-coming opera singers, talked to our reporter, Emma Smith, yesterday. She asked them about their future plans, and this is what she found out:

Rob and Molly are going to give concerts in the summer. Rob