

## Explanations

### Future continuous

#### ■ Form

The future continuous is formed with *will + be + the -ing form of the verb*.

*This time tomorrow I'll be eating lunch on the plane.*

#### ■ Meaning

The future continuous is used when we imagine an activity in progress in the future.

We often use it when we compare what we are doing now with what we will be doing in the future. There is nearly always a time expression.

*Where will you be living in five years' time?*

We also use the future continuous to say that something will definitely happen.

*We'll be holding a meeting soon, so we can decide then.*

### Future perfect

#### ■ Form

The future perfect is formed with *will + have + the past participle*.

*By the time we get to the cinema, the film will have begun.*

#### ■ Meaning

We use the future perfect to look back from one point in the future to an earlier event. We often use *by* or *by the time* with the future perfect.

*By next week I'll have collected over 1000 euros for charity.*

The situation has not happened yet, but at a certain time in the future it will happen.

### Present simple

- We often use the present simple to talk about events in the future based on a fixed timetable, programme or calendar.

*Jim's plane leaves at 12.00.*

*Our head teacher retires next year.*

- We use the present simple to refer to the future after these words: *when, after, before, unless, in case, as soon as, until, by the time, the next time*.

*When I see her again, I'll tell her your news.*

*Let's run home before it rains.*

*Take an umbrella, in case it rains.*

*As soon as we're ready, we'll phone you.*

*Please wait here until Mrs Hall comes back.*

We can also use the present perfect with these words to emphasize that an action is complete.

*Hand in your paper as soon as you have finished.*

### Functions using *will* and *shall*

When we say that a verb form has a 'function', we mean that we use it for a purpose like 'promising' or 'suggesting' rather than to refer to time. Many uses of *will* and *shall* are more easily described in this way.

- Promise  
*I'll try as hard as I can.*
- Threat  
*Stop doing that, or I'll tell my dad.*
- Decision made at the moment of speaking.  
A: *'Which one do you want?'*  
B: *'I'll take the blue silk one.'* (in a shop)
- Offer  
*I'll give you a lift in my car.*  
*Will you have some more coffee?*  
*Shall I open the door for you?*
- Request  
*Will you carry this bag for me?*
- Suggestion  
*Shall we play tennis?*
- Parting remark  
*I'll see you tomorrow.*

→ SEE ALSO

**Grammar 24: Functions**

# Practice

**1** Underline the correct word or phrase in each sentence.

- a) This time next week Billy will lie/will be lying on the beach.
- b) Please stay in your seats until the bell rings/will ring.
- c) We'll have moved/We'll be moving to our new house on Tuesday.
- d) What time does your train leave/will your train leave?
- e) Don't forget to turn off the lights before you're leaving/you leave.
- f) Where will you work/will you be working in ten years' time?
- g) Wait for me. I'll be/I'll have been ready in a moment.
- h) John won't stop/won't have stopped talking all the time!

**2** Complete each part sentence (a–h) with one of the part sentences (1–8). More than one answer may be possible.

- a) As soon as I hear from Sharon, ...<sup>5</sup>.....
- b) By the time Mary arrives .....
- c) Please take a seat .....
- d) This time next week .....
- e) The next time you see me .....
- f) We'll have time to have some lunch .....

- 1 until the dentist is ready.
- 2 the match will be over.
- 3 I'll have had my hair cut and you won't recognize me.
- 4 before the train leaves.
- 5 I'll ask her to phone you.
- 6 we'll be enjoying ourselves on holiday.

**3** Underline the inappropriate verb forms and write the correct form in the space. If the sentence is correct, put a tick (✓).

- a) By the time the police get here, the burglars will have vanished. ..... ✓ .....
- b) When you'll grow older, you'll change your mind about this. .....
- c) The bus leaves at 1.00, so we'll leave the house at 11.30. .....
- d) I won't leave until you will give me the money. .....
- e) As soon as the taxi will arrive, I'll be letting you know. .....
- f) Will you have been using the video next lesson? .....
- g) By the time we get to Helen's house, she'll leave. .....
- h) 'Do you want me to carry this?' 'No that's all right, I'm doing it.' .....

**4** Rewrite each sentence so that it contains *will/shall* or *going to*, and the verb underlined.

- a) How playing tennis?  
*..... Shall we play tennis? .....*
- b) I've decided to study Arabic in Cairo.  
*.....*
- c) I promise to be home by midnight.  
*.....*
- d) I hope to meet you later.  
*.....*
- e) I'd like you to go to the shops for me.  
*.....*
- f) We promise not to make too much noise.  
*.....*
- g) Would you like me to help you with those bags?  
*.....*
- h) We could come back later if you like.  
*.....*

**5** Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence.

- a) The work won't take us longer than an hour.  
 We *'ll have finished* ..... the work in an hour.
- b) I promise to phone you before our next meeting.  
 Before we ..... you.
- c) Would you like me to check the spelling for you?  
 Shall ..... for you?
- d) Sheila refuses to let me share her book.  
 Sheila won't ..... book.
- e) How about having a game of chess?  
 Shall ..... a game of chess?
- f) Please stay here until I come back.  
 Please don't ..... come back.
- g) After the lesson we'll meet and play tennis.  
 When ..... we'll meet and play tennis.
- h) What job will you have in twenty years' time?  
 What will ..... in twenty years' time?