

B Grammar

1 *will, be going to + infinitive and shall*

START POINT

will

- *I think I'll fly directly to Los Angeles.* (= a decision made without planning)
- *Everyone says America's a great place - I'm sure you'll have a fantastic time.* (= a prediction based on opinion or experience)
- *I'll be 21 on 2nd January.* (= a fact about the future)
- *I'll meet you at the airport.* (= willingness)

be going to + infinitive

- *First I'm going to stay with Don and Suzanne.* (= a decision already made)
- *The cloud's building up. It's going to rain this afternoon.* (= a prediction based on outside evidence)

We can sometimes use *will* instead of *be going to* to make a prediction based on outside evidence, but when we do, we usually include an adverb:

The cloud's building up. It'll definitely rain / It's definitely going to rain this afternoon.

We can use *will* or *be going to* in the main clause of an *if*-sentence with little difference in meaning when we say that something is conditional on something else:

If I don't go now, I'll / I'm going to be late for my next lecture.

▲ We use *will*, not *be going to*, when the main clause refers to offers, requests, promises and ability:

If my plans change, I'll let you know, of course. (= promise)

If you bring your tent, we'll camp on the coast for a few days. (= ability; 'we will be able to camp')

In formal contexts, we can use *shall* instead of *will* with *I* or *we*:

- in questions that ask about intentions:
Shall I / we see you before you leave? (= Will I / we have the opportunity to see you?)
- in statements about the future, although *will* is more usual:
When I finish my course I shall have some time to travel around America. or
When I finish my course I will have some time ...

2 Present continuous and present simple for the future

START POINT

present continuous

- *I'm spending a few days sightseeing.* (= event intended or arranged)

present simple

- *Lectures start on 27th July.* (= event as part of official schedule)

Compare the use of the present continuous for the future and *be going to*:

I'm flying on 15th July at ten in the evening. (= already arranged)

I'm going to fly up there if it's not too expensive. (= the speaker intends to fly but has not made the arrangements yet)

We tend to avoid *be going to go* and use the present continuous (*be going to*) instead:

Then I'm going to San Francisco. rather than *Then I'm going to go to San Francisco.*

We can't use the present continuous for future events which are outside people's control:

It's going to rain this afternoon. (~~not *It's raining this afternoon.*~~)

We can use either the present simple or *will* to talk about official arrangements:

The semester begins on 7th December. or *The semester will begin on 7th December.*

The present continuous is used in informal arrangements:

You're not staying with them the whole time, then? (= informal arrangement) (~~not *You don't stay with them the whole time, then?*~~)

We use the present simple, or sometimes other present tenses, to refer to the future in time clauses with a conjunction (e.g. *after, as soon as, before, by the time, when, while, until*); in conditional clauses with *if, in case, provided* and *unless*; and in clauses beginning with *suppose, supposing* and *what if*:

As soon as I book my tickets, I'll let you know. (~~not *As soon as I will book ...*~~)

It'll be good to know I can contact them in case I have any problems. (~~not ... *in case I will have any problems ...*~~)

What if I don't like it? (~~not *What if I won't like it?*~~)

3 Future continuous, future perfect and future perfect continuous

We use the future continuous (*will + be + present participle*) to talk about something predicted to happen at a particular time or over a particular period in the future:

I'll be studying really hard during the semesters.

We use the future perfect (*will + have + past participle*) to make a prediction about an action we expect to be completed by a particular time in the future:

By the time you come I'm sure I'll have got to know the city really well.

We use the future perfect continuous (*will + have been + present participle*) to emphasise the duration of an activity in progress at a particular point in the future:

When I come to see you, you'll have been living in California for nearly six months.

We can also use the future continuous, future perfect and future perfect continuous to say what we believe or imagine to be true:

Dad won't be using his car, so I'm sure it's okay to borrow it. (= an activity happening now or at a particular point in the future)

They'll have forgotten what I look like. (= an event that took place before now or before a particular point in the future)

My plane's been delayed. Don and Suzanne will have been waiting for me at the airport for hours. (= an activity continuing to now)



4 **be to + infinitive**

Be to + infinitive is commonly used:

- in news reports:

*Extra lifeguards **are to be posted** at the beach after a shark was seen swimming close to the shore.*

- to talk about official plans, and rules or instructions:

*Students **are to hand in** project reports at the end of semester two. (active)*

*Project reports **are to be handed in** at the end of semester two. (passive)*

▲ We only use *is / are / am to + infinitive* to talk about future events that people can control:
*The weather **will** still be warm even in winter. (not ~~The weather is still to be warm.~~)*

We often use *be to + infinitive* in *if*-clauses when we mean 'in order to':

*If she **is to get** a good grade in her project report, she needs to work on her statistics. (= in order to get a good grade, she needs to work on her statistics)*

Compare: *If she **gets** a good grade in her project report, she will be really surprised.*

5 **Future in the past**

A number of forms can be used to talk about a past activity or event that was still in the future from the point of view of the speaker:

*I **was going to see** an aunt in Seattle a couple of years ago, but I cancelled the trip because she got ill. (= a plan that didn't happen)*

*I knew I **would be feeling** awful by the end of the flight. (= a prediction made in the past)*

(> See Appendix 2.)

F P C We can use *was / were to + infinitive* and *was / were to have + past participle* to talk about the future in the past, particularly in formal contexts. With *was / were to + infinitive* we don't know whether the event actually happened unless the context makes this clear:

*First, I flew to New York and then I **was to go on** to Chicago. (= we don't know whether the speaker went to Chicago or not)*

▲ *was / were to have + past participle* is used for things that were expected, but didn't actually happen:

*I **was to have visited** my aunt, but she was taken ill. (= the visit didn't happen)*

Unlike *is / are / am to + infinitive* (see B4 above), we can use *was / were to + infinitive* whether or not people can control the event:

*Helen left England for Australia in 1964 for what she intended to be a short visit, but it **was to be** 30 years before she returned to her home country.*

2 Choose the most appropriate future form. Sometimes more than one form is possible.

- 1 You'll freeze if ~~you go~~ out dressed like that. Put on a warm coat!
(*you'll go / you're going to go / you go*)
- 2 When I retire next year, a lot of travelling around North America.
(*I'm doing / I do / I'm going to do*)
- 3 A: Have you been in touch with Pat yet to say we can't come? You said you'd do it.
B: Sorry, I forgot. her know tomorrow when I see her at work.
(*I'm going to let / I shall let / I'll let*)
- 4 Look at that stupid cyclist. an accident.
(*He'll cause / He's going to cause / He causes*)
- 5 A: What do you want done with this box?
B: If you just leave it there, it upstairs when I go.
(*I'll take / I'm taking / I'm going to take*)
- 6 A: What this evening?
(*are you doing / are you going to do / do you do*)
B: Oh, I don't know. Maybe watch a DVD.
(*I'm going to / I'll / I'm watching*)
- 7 Please note that next week's concert at 7.00, not 7.30 as advertised
in the programme.
(*is commencing / will commence / is going to commence*)
- 8 Mr Kerr angry if you don't hand your homework in today.
(*is being / is going to be / will be*)
- 9 A: Bob Dylan a concert in London next month.
(*will do / is doing / does*)
B: book some tickets?
(*Am I going to / Will I / Shall I*)
- 10 The air tickets around a week to reach you.
(*shall take / will take / are taking*)
- 11 The French oral tests next Monday.
(*are starting / will start / start*)
- 12 When Guy 50, Gemma 18.
(*is / will be / is going to be*) (*is going to be / is to be / will be*)
- 13 If we get much more rain, the river its banks.
(*is probably going to burst / will probably burst / is bursting*)

3 Complete the sentences using a future form of the verbs given. Use the same future form for all the sentences in each group. Use:

present simple	future continuous	be to + infinitive
be going to + infinitive	future perfect	present continuous
future perfect continuous		

1 *get - go - terminate*

- a All change, please - this train *terminates* here.
- b What time ~~does our plane get~~ (our plane) to Athens?
- c The cat runs away from me as soon as I *go* near it.

2 *buy - have - need*

- a A: What are you going to town for?
B: I some new shoes.
- b A: Jane's not looking very well.
B: No, apparently, she a major operation.
- c A: I've made a list of the things you for the field trip to Iceland.
B: Thanks, that's really helpful.

3 *negotiate - watch - work*

- a On April 1st next year I at the university for 25 years.
- b A: It's such a pity that Helen is away and can't watch the match with us. You know how much she loves tennis.
B: I'm sure she it on TV in her hotel room.
- c The next statement from the trade union leaders is expected at ten o'clock this evening. By that time they with the employers for nearly 36 hours.

4 *come - do - support*

- a Justin's not feeling well, so he tonight after all.
- b Who (you) in the rugby world cup final next week, England or South Africa?
- c A: What do you think Susan at the moment?
B: Oh, she'll still be in bed.

5 *create - launch - leave*

- a The computer firm Clark Campbell 300 new jobs at its assembly plant just outside Dublin.
- b All mobile phones outside the examination room.
- c The government an enquiry next week into allegations of corruption in the civil service.

6 *analyse - have - move*

- a The bank predicts that by the end of next year, over 80% of its customers to online banking.
- b Natasha her exam results by now. I wonder how she's got on.
- c My research is going rather slowly at the moment, but I'm certain by the end of the year all of my data

7 *go - have - make*

- a She a speech at the conference next week.
- b I out there - it's pouring with rain and I haven't got an umbrella.
- c We risotto for dinner. Is that okay with you?