

4.5 Future forms: Present Continuous, be going to and will

- We use the Present Continuous for fixed future arrangements, which have already been planned and prepared:
I can't go shopping tomorrow at five. I'm playing tennis with Joy. (I've already made an arrangement with Joy.)
- We use *be going to* + infinitive to talk about future intentions or plans, which may still be changed:

Are you going to invite your aunt to the party?

- We use *will* + infinitive for spontaneous decisions made at the moment of speaking, often in reaction to a new situation. We often use *will* with:

I think I'll ... , I'll probably ... , Don't worry, I'll ...

I think I'll ask Luke for help.

Affirmative			Negative		
I	am ('m)		I	am not ('m not)	
You/We/They	are ('re)	going to sleep.	You/We/They	are not (aren't)	going to study.
He/She/It	is ('s)		He/She/It	is not (isn't)	

Yes/No questions			Short answers		
Am	I		Yes, I am.	No, I am not ('m not).	
Are	you/we/they	going to study?	Yes, you/we/they are.	No you/we/they are not (aren't).	
Is	he/she/it		Yes, he/she/it is.	No, he/she/it is not (isn't).	

Wh- questions					
	am	I			
When	are	you/we/they	going to study?		
	is	he/she/it			

Subject questions					
Who	is	going to study?			

Affirmative			Negative		
I/You/He/She/It/We/They	will	drop biology.	I/You/He/She/It/We/They	will not (won't)	drop biology.

Yes/No questions			Short answers		
Will	I/you/he/she/it/we/they	drop biology?	Yes, I/you/he/she/it/we/they will.	No, I/you/he/she/it/we/they will not (won't).	

Wh- questions					
What	will	I/you/he/she/it/we/they	drop?		

Subject questions					
Who	will	drop biology?			

1 Choose the correct option.

- We had a discussion and we've decided we *are not going to* / *will not* attend the meeting next week.
- Don't worry. *I'll phone* / *I'm phoning* you to tell you the news.
- What time *are you meeting* / *will you meet* Dr Stevens tomorrow?
- Who do you think *will* / *is going to* win the next World Cup?

2 Complete the sentences with the appropriate future forms of the verbs in brackets.

- Mum _____ (see) the dentist at four o'clock this afternoon.
- It's my birthday next month but I _____ (not have) a party.
- Brrr, it's cold in here. I think I _____ (turn) the heating on.
- What _____ (you / do) later? Do you want to go for a coffee?
- My cousin _____ (get married) in May.
- Sorry, I can't talk now. I _____ (call) you back later.
- These bags are so heavy, I _____ (carry) them for you.

3 What will these people say in the following situations? Choose the best option.

- A customer at a café:
I'll have / *I'm going to have* / *I'm having* a big glass of orange juice, please.
- Someone who's just heard about his uncle's problem:
What? Uncle Bob *will paint* / *is going to paint* his house all by himself on Saturday? *I'm going to help* / *I'll help* him!
- A businesswoman talking about her plans for the new year:
I'm going to help / *I'll help* / *I'm helping* some African charities this year.
- Someone talking to his/her friend on the phone:
I'm having / *I'll have* / *I'm going to have* a house party on Saturday. I've already bought the food and drink but can you bring the music?
- Someone talking to his/her friend:
I'll buy / *I'm going to buy* / *I'm buying* Matt a desk lamp for his birth day. Do you think that's a good idea?

4 Complete the text with the appropriate future forms of the verbs in brackets.

Next weekend we ¹ _____ (have) a school disco in the main hall. I ² _____ (wear) my favourite shirt with my new jeans and brown shoes. I ³ _____ (work) in the afternoon in my mum's shop, but after that I ⁴ _____ (return) home to have a shower and get dressed. I'm quite excited. But who do I invite? I know! I ⁵ _____ (ask) Sarah in my Maths class. She's really nice.