

Future in the past

I can use a range of tenses and expressions to talk about plans made in the past.

- 1 **SPEAKING** Look at the post. Discuss why this person is giving away a free airline ticket.



Is your name Elizabeth Gallagher? Are you from Canada? Contact me to get a free round-the-world ticket!

Submitted 1 day ago • by Jordan

Air Company			
Name of passenger ELIZABETH GALLAGHER			
From New York	Flight IAF123	Date 21 DEC 14	Time 07:15
To Milan			
Gate 05	Boarding till 06:40	Seat 15A	

Have a nice flight			
Name of passenger ELIZABETH GALLAGHER			
From New York	Flight IAF123	Date 21 DEC 14	Time 07:15
To Milan			
Gate 05	Boarding till 06:40	Seat 15A	

- 2 **1.8 SPEAKING** Listen to a short news story about the post in Exercise 1. Discuss the questions in pairs.
- 1 Was your guess correct?
 - 2 Would you give a ticket to a complete stranger? Why?/Why not?
 - 3 Would you go on the trip? Why?/Why not?
- 3 **1.8** Listen again. In your notebook, write the words you hear.
- 1 They were *on the verge of taking* / *about to take* a romantic trip.
 - 2 They were *going to* / *planning to* travel around the world.
 - 3 They *would have* / *spend* Christmas Day in Vienna.
 - 4 They were *visiting* / *seeing* eight countries.
 - 5 It was *to* / *going to* be the trip of a lifetime.
 - 6 But shortly before the trip was *supposed to* / *due to* take place, the couple split up.
 - 7 He *wasn't planning on missing out* / *about to miss out* on the trip as well.
 - 8 He also wanted to share the ticket with someone who would not otherwise *go on* / *be able to afford* the trip.
- 4 Read the LANGUAGE FOCUS and find another example in Exercise 3 for each future in the past form.

LANGUAGE FOCUS

Future in the past

- You can use a number of verb forms to talk about an event or plan that was in the future at a point in the past.

Past Continuous

They **were visiting** eight countries.

was/were **going to**

They **were going to** travel around the world.

would/wouldn't

They **would spend** Christmas Day in Vienna.

- You can also use **phrases with be** to talk about intentions you had in the past.

They **were on the verge of** taking a romantic trip.

Other phrases: **be about to** (go), **be supposed to** (fly), **be on the point of** (starting)

- You can also use **plan + to + infinitive** or **plan on + -ing**:
We **were planning to leave/on leaving** early.

- 5 In your notebook, write one word from the box for each gap in the text.

(about going point was wasn't would)

When I was about fifteen, I went through a rebellious phase. I'd decided that school wasn't for me and I was ¹about to leave. I ²? intending to take any exams and I didn't have any clear ideas about what I ³? do once I left. Then, just as I was on the ⁴? of leaving, a new Maths teacher took over our classes. Little did I know that he ⁵? going to be the person who changed everything for me. He was funny and clever and he wasn't ⁶? to let me leave school without a clear plan. He introduced me to coding and opened a door to my future as a software developer.

- 6 **USE OF ENGLISH** In your notebook, rewrite the sentences so that the meaning is the same. Use the words in capitals. Do not change the word given.

- 1 He was about to start a new course that week. **BEGINNING**
- 2 I was seriously considering selling my guitar. **VERGE**
- 3 I was sure the exam results were going to decide my future career. **WOULD**
- 4 I knew exactly what I was going to do for the next six months. **DOING**
- 5 We had to be home at eleven o'clock. **SUPPOSED**

- 7 In pairs, discuss how to match the plans from Exercise 6 with what actually happened.

- a But that felt very restricting, so I did something impetuous.
- b But I was wrong! I went on to do a completely different job.
- c But it was cancelled at the last minute.
- d However, my grandmother persuaded me not to.
- e But time slipped by and it was three a.m. when we eventually got home!

- 8 **SPEAKING** Think of a time when you had to change your plans. Discuss what happened. Use as many of the forms from the LANGUAGE FOCUS as possible.