

TENSES

FUTURE SIMPLE

CASES & EXAMPLES

in predictions about the future usually with:

- **think, believe, expect**
- **be sure, be afraid,**
- **probably, perhaps, certainly**

I'm afraid we won't be on time for the meeting.

on-the-spot decisions

I'll take a cup of coffee.

- **promises** (usually with the verbs promise, swear, guarantee, etc.)
- **threats**
- **warnings**
- **requests**
- **hopes** (usually with the verb hope)
- **offers**

I don't understand the exercise. Will you help me with it? (request)

actions/ events/ situations which will definitely happen in the future and which we cannot control

The temperature will reach 40°C tomorrow.

TIME EXPRESSIONS

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

TENSES

BE GOING TO

CASES & EXAMPLES

plans, intentions,
ambitions we have for
the future

I'm going to become a
famous violinist one day.
(ambition)

Now that they've won the
lottery, they are going to
buy a big house.
(intention/plan)

actions we have already
decided to do in the
near future

They are going to get
married in three months.
(They have already
decided to do it.)

BUT: They're **getting**
married next month.
(They have decided and
arranged to do it.)

predictions when
there is evidence that
something will happen
in the near future

Look at the clouds!
It's going to rain.

NOTE:

1) We normally use **be going to** to talk about something we intend to do and **will** to give details or make comments.

e.g. A: I'm **going** to have a party next week. I'll **invite** all my friends.

B: That'll be great.

2) We normally use **the present continuous** rather than **be going to** with verbs which express movement, especially the verbs **go** and **come**.

e.g. Sam **is going** to the market in a few minutes.

Sheila **is coming** to my house for tea this afternoon.

TENSES

FUTURE CONTINUOUS

CASES & EXAMPLES

action which will be in progress at a stated future time

.....

This time next week we will be cruising round the islands.

.....

action which will definitely happen in the future as the result of a routine or arrangement

.....

Don't call Julie. I'll be seeing her later, so I'll pass the message on.

.....

when we ask politely about someone's plans for the near future (what we want to know is if our wishes fit in with their plans)

.....

Will you be using the photocopier for long? I need to make some photocopies.

.....

TENSES

FUTURE PERFECT

CASES & EXAMPLES

action which will be finished before a stated future time

.....

She will have delivered all the newspapers by 8 o'clock.

.....

TIME EXPRESSIONS

before, by, by then, by the time, untill/ till

TENSES

FUTURE PERFECT CONTINUOUS

CASES & EXAMPLES

emphasise the duration
of an action up to a
certain time in the future

By the end of next month,
she will have been
teaching for twenty years.

TIME EXPRESSIONS

by.....for

NOTE:

After the expressions **by the time**, **until**, **before** we use the present simple because they introduce time clauses. The future perfect and the future perfect continuous may come either before or after the time clause.

I **won't have finished** cleaning the house **until** you come back.

By the time they reach York, they **will have been travelling** for four hours.

NOTE:

Until/ till are only used in negative sentences.

She **will have finished** the report **by** tomorrow.

(NOT:until/ till tomorrow)

She **won't have completed** the report **until/ till** 5 o'clock.

NOTE:

We can use the **future simple**, **future continuous** or **future perfect** to make a prediction about the present or past, that is to say what we believe may be happening or have happened.

There's somebody on the phone for you. -- That'**ll be** my mother.

Don't call her now -- she'**ll be sleeping**.

It's seven o'clock. Dad **will have left** the office by now.

NOTE:

PRESENT SIMPLE

We use the present simple for future actions when we refer to programmes, timetables.

The bus **arrives** in Liverpool at 7.30.

NOTE:

PRESENT CONTINUOUS

We use the present continuous for actions we have decided and arranged to do in the near future.

I'm flying to Lisbon tomorrow morning.

NOTE:

OTHER WAYS OF EXPRESSING THE FUTURE

BE + INFINITIVE - future plans

The meeting **is to take** place on Wednesday.

BE ABOUT + INFINITIVE - immediate future

They **are about to leave**.

BE ON THE POINT OF + GERUND - immediate future

They **are on the point of leaving**.

NOTE:

We use the present simple or present perfect, and not future forms, after words and expressions such as **while, before, after, until/till, as, unless, when, whenever, if, suppose/ supposing, once, as soon as, as long as, by the time, in case, on condition that, etc.**
Call me **as soon as you get back.**
(NOT:... as soon as you will get back)

NOTE:

We use **future forms** with **when** when it is used as a **question word**. When it is used as a **time word** we use the **present simple**.
When **will** they get married?
I'm not sure when they **will** visit us.
BUT: I will let you know when I **decide**.

NOTE:

We use **future forms** with **if (= whether)** when it is used after expressions which show ignorance, uncertainty, etc. such as **I don't know, I wonder, I doubt**, etc.
I don't know **if/ whether** he'll **move** house.
I doubt **if/ whether** she'll **pass** her exams.
BUT: If you **call** her, give her my regards.