



1st semester



Topic 15, 41:

Expressing the future

Tenses we can use

-  Future simple
-  Present Simple
-  Present Continuous
-  Be going to
-  Future Continuous
-  Future Perfect
-  is to/are to/ was to

To talk about the future

 We use **the Future simple** to give or ask for information about the future in general.

- We **will need** the money on the 15th.
- **Will** all the family **be** at the wedding?
- It **will be** spring soon.
- She **won't be** here when you come.



Future time clauses



After time expressions as when, if, until and as soon as a **present tense** form is used, although this refers to future time.

- I'll wait for you here until you **get** back.
- If I'm there tomorrow. I'll phone you.
- When it's ready I'll give it to you.



The **present perfect** can be used to emphasize the completion of an event.

- I'll wait here until you **have finished**.



Near Future & pre-planned

 **The Present Continuous** is used to speak about something pre-planned that we know will take place in the near future, especially if we are using a verb that implies “moving from one place to another”

- **He is arriving tonight** (I am certain)
- **They are living next Sunday** (I know, it has been planned)



Plans and facts



The **Present Continuous** is used to describe plans and arrangements which are definite.

- Sorry, I can't help you, I'm **leaving** in the morning.



The **Present Continuous** is used to describe fixed arrangements, and to ask about social arrangements.

- **Are you doing** anything this evening?
- Did you know I'm **getting** a new job?
- What **are we having** for dinner?



Plans and facts

-  With **the Present Continuous** we often give the time, date, and / or place when we talk about future personal arrangements and fixed plans.
- **What are you doing this evening?** 'I'm washing my hair.'
 - **My car's having a service next week.**
 - **We're going to Spain in June.**
 - **I'm seeing Pete on Tuesday.** (There is an arrangement now.)



Plans and facts



The Present Simple is used to describe future events which we cannot control. They may be facts, such as events in a timetable, or a law.

➤ The plane for Paris **leaves** at 9.45.



The Present Simple and **Present Perfect** can also be used to refer to future time.

➤ I'll tell you the news when I **see** you.

➤ Call me when you **have finished**.



Is to / are to/ was to

 We can talk about the future by saying that something **is to** happen. We often use this structure to talk about official plans and fixed personal arrangements.

- The President **is to visit** Scotland in September.
- We **are to get** a wage rise.
- I felt nervous because I **was soon to leave** home for the first time.



Prediction

 We often make a prediction because we can see the cause of the event. **Be going to** is used to predict what may happen based on what we see.

- Look out! There's a bus coming! **It's going to** hit us!
- I can see you're **going to have** a baby. When is it due?
- He is looking up! **He is going to fall** into the hole.



Prediction

 **Be going to** is also used instead of the **Future Simple** in predictions when there is no cause. It seems more colloquial.

- I'm sure you 're **going to enjoy** the film.
- I 'm sure you 'll **enjoy** the film.



Prediction



If a predicted event is very near, and especially in impersonal statements, **be going to** is commonly used for predictions.

- You're going to fall!
- Liverpool are going to win the Cup.



The Future simple can also be used in these examples, with no change of meaning.



Prediction

When the **Future Simple** is used to make predictions, it is often preceded by / think, promise, predict, expect, hope, fear or by opinion words like perhaps.

- I think it'll **rain** tomorrow.
- Perhaps she'll **be** late.
- Tomorrow **will be** warm with some cloud in the afternoon.
- Who do you think **will win**?
- You'll never **finish** that book.



Prediction

-  We prefer **the Future Simple** when we are talking more about what is inside our heads: our beliefs, guesses, knowledge etc.
- **Don't lend him your car - he'll crash it.** (I know him.)



Decisions and firm intentions

 **Be going to** is used when we talk about plans, decisions and firm intentions, especially in an informal style.

- **We're going to** get a new car soon. (it's our decision)
- **I am going to** wash my hair (that's my intention)
- **Will you come to my party? Sorry, I'm going to** help Lola (prior plan /arrangement)



Decisions and firm intentions



Be going to is used to describe a present intention.

- I'm going to fix the television tomorrow.
- I'm going to be an artist



Quick Decision



The Future simple is used for decisions made at the time of speaking.

- I know, I'll **get** him a wallet for his birthday.
- Don't worry, I'll **answer** the phone!
- Let me help you, I'll **carry** it



Conditions

 **The Future Simple** is used to state what we think will happen if certain conditions are met.

- If you come I'll **give** you the book.
- If you study you'll **learn** more
- If he arrives on time he'll **catch** the bus



Comparing tenses use

We can often use more than one structure to talk about the same future event.

- 📄 **Present forms** emphasize present ideas like intention, certainty and plans.
- 📄 We prefer **Future simple** when we are not emphasizing present ideas.
- 📄 Compare:
 - **Next year is going to be different** (I promise)
 - **Next year will be different.** (probably)
 - **What are you doing next year?** (You haven't told me your plans)
 - **What will you do next year ?** (do you know?)



Comparing tenses use

In polite enquiries

- 📄 **The Future Progressive** suggests 'What have you already decided?' giving the idea that we are not trying to influence people.
 - **Will you be staying in staying in this evening?** (just asking about plans)
- 📄 **Be going to** presses for a decision
 - **Are you going to stay in this evening?** (perhaps pressing for a decision)
- 📄 **Future simple** is used as a request
 - **Will you stay in this evening?** (request)



Future Continuous



The **future continuous** is used to describe a situation in the future at a particular time.

- This time next week we'll **be eating** lunch on the plane!
- This time tomorrow I'll **be skiing**.
- At six o'clock tonight we'll **be flying** to London



Future Continuous



The **future continuous** is used to predict a future state or habit at a particular time in the future.

- In ten years time I expect I'll **be living** in London.
- And I'll **probably be cycling** to work.
- Professor Asher **will be giving** another lecture at the same time next week.
- I'll **be seeing** you one of these days. I expect.



Future Perfect

 **The future perfect** looks back from a point in the future and refers to indefinite time up to that point.

➤ By the time we get there, the film **will have started**.

This means that at the future time when we get there, we can say: **The film has started**.

➤ The builder says he'll **have finished** the roof by Saturday.

➤ The car **will soon have done** 100.000 miles.



Future Perfect Continuous

 We can use the Future Perfect Continuous to say how long something will have continued by a certain time.

- Next Christmas I'll have been teaching for twenty years.
- By her fifth birthday she will have been working in the same office.



Summary

Tense	Action	Example
Present Continuous	Pre-planned & near future	He is arriving tonight
Be going to	Intentions & prior arrangements	I am going to wash my hair
Be going to	Prediction based on what we see	Look at those clouds, it's going to rain!
Future simple	With certain verbs: Promise, predict, expect, hope...	I promise I will see her tomorrow
Future simple	With Conditions	If you smoke you' ll never be healthy
Future Simple	Quick decision	Don't worry, I' ll answer the phone
Present Simple	Future time clauses (until, if, when...)	I won't leave until you arrive



Summary

Tense	Action	Example
Future Continuous	Something in progression in the future	At 6 o'clock tonight we will be flying to London
Future Perfect	Something will be finished at a given time in the future	By seven will have landed