

THE FUTURE IN ENGLISH

THE PRESENT CONTINUOUS

I'm meeting the new director tomorrow.

- For arrangements, appointments, plans which have been finalised. There is nearly always a time expression with this tense.

Ex: **I'm having** lunch with the HR Director tomorrow.

When **are you going** on holiday?

I'm seeing Jack at 2.00, then **I'm meeting** my bank manager.

GOING TO + VERB

I'm going to call him this afternoon.

- For plans and intentions, things we have decided to do or that we have the intention of doing. These things are not finalised yet. The time in the future can be near or distant.

Ex: We're **going to open** a factory in China next year.

Are you going to watch the final tonight?

I'm going to buy a new car next year, mine is really old.

- For predictions, when there is physical evidence that something will happen.

Ex: Look at those clouds, **it's going to rain**.

He hates his job, **he's going to resign**.

Be careful! **It's going to fall**.

WILL

I'll call him.

- For spontaneous decisions, when we decide to do something at the time of speaking, instant decisions that just come into our head. "Will" often suggests that a speaker will do something voluntarily.

Ex: Don't worry, **I'll call** you back to let you know.

That bag looks heavy, **I'll help** you carry it.

I'll wait for you outside.

- For future events that we see as facts, not plans and assumptions

Ex: Next year **I'll be** 40.

In June we **will launch** 2 new products.

In the next few years, more people **will work** from home.

- For predictions, things we think will happen. Used with : I think, suppose, believe, expect, hope, etc...

Ex: I think we **'ll (probably) open** a new subsidiary in the UK.

He **'ll (probably) leave** at the end of the year.

I'm sure they **'ll like** the new design.

- For promises.

Ex: I promise I'll **call** you.

We promise we **won't tell** anybody what happened.

Promise me you **won't forget**.

PRESENT SIMPLE

The conference **starts** on Tuesday.

- Only for timetabled events. Things scheduled, which will happen whether we are there or not (all transports), things which are based on a fixed timetable, programme or calendar.

Ex: My plane **leaves** tomorrow at 9.00.

The film **starts** really late tonight.

University **starts** on 1st September this year.

FUTURE TIME EXPRESSIONS

- **No Future in Time Clauses**

Like all future forms, the Simple Future cannot be used in clauses beginning with time expressions such as: when, while, before, after, by the time, as soon as, if, unless, etc. Instead of Simple Future, Simple Present is used.

- **We use the Present Simple or Present Perfect Simple and not will after the following expressions:**

When

When I see her, I'll tell her you called.

After

After I get back, we'll have to discuss it again.

As soon as

As soon as I finish the report, I'll email it to you.

Until

You can wait here **until she comes** back.

Once

I'll give you a call **once I have** an answer.

ADVERB PLACEMENT

- **The examples below show the placement for grammar adverbs such as: always, only, never, ever, still, just, etc.**

Ex : You will never help him.

Will you ever help him?

You are never going to meet Jane.

Are you ever going to meet Jane?

PRACTICE:

Fill the blanks with the appropriate tense of the verbs in brackets.

1. The train **leaves** tonight at 6 PM. (leave)
2. I **am meeting** some friends after work. (meet)
3. I think he **'ll be** late. (be)
4. These bags look heavy! I **'ll help** you carry them to your car. (help)
5. As soon as the meeting **finishes**, I need to go home to get my computer. (finish)
6. This is my last day here. I **'m going** back to England tomorrow. (go)
7. Hurry up! The conference **begins** in 20 minutes. (begin)
8. Look at these big black clouds! It **'s going to rain**.(rain)
9. I love London. I **'ll probably go** there next year (probably go)
10. He's sold his old computer, he **'s going to buy** a new one. (buy)
11. What time **does the show begin** (show begin)
12. They **'re flying** to London tomorrow evening at 8.45. (fly)