

Future time: *going to*, *will*, present progressive and present simple

A Starting activities

1 She's seeing her doctor next week

Present progressive

- 1 Work in pairs. Think of three well-known people or three people in the room. Use present progressive sentences to tell your partner about their appointments for these times: this evening, tomorrow morning, next week, next month. Use the verbs and the ideas for appointments below to help you. Example: *Maria is seeing her doctor next week.*

Verbs: *go, meet, see, have a talk/meeting with*

Ideas for appointments: doctor, dentist, optician, bank manager, dress designer, tax adviser, accountant, architect, business manager, boss, the President, President of the fan club

- 2 Work as a class. Listen to other people's suggestions for appointments. Are there any that you think are wrong? Example: *No, Maria isn't seeing her doctor next week. She's having her hair done.*

2 Trapped

going to and the present progressive

- 1 Work in pairs. Helen and her boyfriend John were travelling round the world together. Unfortunately, they could not get out of a certain country for six months. (Why not?) During this time they made some important decisions. When they finally got out they told their friends about their plans for the future.

Imagine that you are friends of Helen and John and make sentences about their intentions using *going to* or *not going to*. Use the ideas below to help you. Example: *They're going to get married.*

Ideas: have a big party, get married, buy a flat in town, leave/change jobs, have a holiday, travel abroad again

- 2 Work in the same pairs. It is three months later. This time one of you is Helen or John and the other one is a friend. The friend asks questions about Helen and John's intentions using *going to*. Helen or John answers with information about the couple's firm plans using the present progressive, like this:

FRIEND	<i>Are you going to get married?</i>
HELEN/JOHN	<i>Yes, we're getting married on 15 July in London.</i>

3 A fortune teller

will and *going to*

- 1 Work in pairs. One of you is a fortune teller first, then the other one has a turn. The fortune teller looks at his or her partner's hand and makes predictions about the future. Use *will/won't* or *going to/not going to*. Invent your partner's future but say only nice things! Say things about your partner's future career, love-life, luck and money situation and at least one surprise. Examples: *You will marry an Italian. You're going to get a new car soon.*
- 2 Work as a class. Tell the class some of your predictions and write down a few of the nicest predictions that other people made.

B Grammar guide

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- 1 Present progressive** Use the present progressive to describe firm plans for the future.
The President is visiting London next week. (This is arranged.)
I'm seeing the doctor next week. (I have an appointment.)
We're moving to a flat in London. (We have made all the arrangements.)
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- 2 going to** ■ Use *going to* to describe future intentions. Intentions are not as definite as firm plans. You have decided what you want to do in the future, but you have not made firm plans, appointments or arrangements.
The President is going to spend more time with his family. (No arrangements have been made and no definite times have been decided.)
I still have a pain. I'm going to see a doctor. (I have not made an appointment yet.)
We're definitely going to buy a little flat in London. (We are looking at possible flats. We want to buy one.)
NOTE You can sometimes use the present progressive or *going to* with no difference in meaning.
Isn't it marvellous, we're getting married!
Isn't it marvellous, we're going to get married!
■ A prediction is what you think will happen in the future. Use *going to* for predictions when you can see now that something is going to happen. (In other words you have 'present evidence' that something is going to happen.)
Look out! It's going to fall. Look at those clouds. It's going to rain.
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- 3 will** ■ Use *will/won't* for predictions when you have no present evidence.
In a hundred years' time we will all travel everywhere by helicopter.
The train service won't be any better than it is now.
You can often use either *will* or *going to* for predictions with very little difference in meaning.
Fortune teller: (I can see in your hand that) *You are going to get married next year.*
Fortune teller: (I know because I can see the future that) *You will get married next year.*
■ Use *will* when something in the future is inevitable, in other words it is outside anybody's control.
Next year I will be twenty-eight. It will be spring soon.
■ Use *will* when you make a decision about something at the moment of speaking. It is not a plan of any sort, it is an idea you have just thought of. The contracted form 'll is usually used.
OK, if we can't have a picnic, we'll stay in and watch a video.
I'll do the washing up, if you like.
■ Use *shall/shan't* and not *will/won't* for suggestions or to ask for advice. *Shall* is usually used with *I* or *we*, not with *you, he, she* or *it*.
Shall we go out this evening?
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- 4 Present simple** Use the present simple when you see something as a fact. In future time, 'facts' are usually regular events, timetables and the times that buildings open and close.
The train leaves at ten o'clock.

C Activities

1 A poem kit

will for predicting

Work in pairs or groups. Write four sentences that start with *When I'm old I'll* . . . Cut or tear the paper so that there is only one sentence on each piece of paper. Pass the pieces of paper around until each pair or group has four sentences that they did not write. Rewrite the sentences as a four-sentence poem. Only the first line has *When I'm old* . . . The other three lines start with *I'll*. The poem does not have to rhyme but read the lines aloud for a good rhythm. Here is an example:

When I'm old I'll have cornflakes for tea (no teeth you know).

I'll walk carefully,

I'll be happy, you'll see.

I'll play music for you and me.

2 Our town

will for predicting; present simple for facts in the future

- 1 Work in pairs or groups. Quickly draw the main streets in the centre of the town where you are having this lesson. Draw in any important places you can think of, like the Town Hall or a park. Then draw it all again as you think it will be in a hundred years' time. Discuss what the town will look like in a hundred years' time and what changes there will be, using the *will* future only. Examples: *The Town Hall will be a computer centre. There will be a helicopter landing pad in the park.*
- 2 Work in pairs or groups. Using the drawing of the town in one hundred years' time, take it in turns to be a tour guide. Imagine that you are taking your partner or the rest of your group round your town in a hundred years' time. Tell them about everything they can see. Use some present simple sentences for future time where you can, like this: *This is the helicopter landing pad. The next helicopter leaves from here in five minutes.*

3 Improving your classroom

going to (for intentions) and *will* (for ideas you have just thought of)

- 1 Work as a class. Half the class is Team A and the other half of the class is Team B. Team A and Team B have five minutes to think of possible improvements to the classroom. You can talk to anybody in your own team and write down ideas. Examples: *Paint the walls blue. Have armchairs in here.*
- 2 Someone from Team A says an intended improvement using *going to*. Example: *We're going to paint the walls blue.* Team A gets one point if the *going to* sentence is correct.

Someone from Team B makes an objection or points out a problem. Example: *You can't paint the walls blue, there's no blue paint.*

Team B gets one point if the sentence is correct.

Someone from Team A must think of something spontaneously and say a correct sentence with *will*. Example: *OK, we'll paint the walls green then.*

Team A gets one point if the *will* sentence is correct.

Then Team B has a turn to start by saying one of their intended improvements.

4 She's leaving home

Present progressive, *will, going to*

There is a song by *The Beatles* called *She's Leaving Home*. It is about a daughter who leaves her family home for the first time to go and live somewhere else. This activity is about the same situation. Work in pairs, A and B.

Person A: Read Activity note 13 on page 139.

Person B: Read Activity note 51 on page 153.

D Accuracy practice

1 Write complete sentences. Use the present progressive or *going to*. Use both where both are possible.

- 1 I/buy/a car as soon as I have enough money.
- 2 Can you meet Richard at the station, please? He/arrive/at nine o'clock on the train from Oxford.
- 3 Her boyfriend/not/come/until next week.
- 4 You/definitely/pass/the exam.
- 5 /you/work/at home next week?

2 Complete the sentences. Use *will*, *won't*, or *shall*.

- 1 What _____ we do this evening?
- 2 I don't know what he _____ do. He won't tell me anything.
- 3 I'm tired. I think I _____ go to bed.
- 4 She _____ get there in time. She set off too late.
- 5 It's a formal party, so what _____ we wear?

3 Write complete sentences. Use *will*, *won't* or *going to*.

- 1 That parcel looks heavy. I/take/it to the Post Office for you.
- 2 I know what! I/not/take/the car at all. I/walk/.
- 3 It's Jane's birthday in August. She/be/sixteen.
- 4 He/meet/Mary at the station. He told her yesterday that he would.
- 5 Look at those clouds. It/rain/.

4 Complete the sentences. Use *will*, *going to*, the present progressive or the present simple. Sometimes there is more than one possible answer.

- 1 We've agreed that Jim _____ (buy) the food for the party, and I _____ (cook) it.
- 2 Quick! The museum _____ (close) at half-past five. It says so in the guidebook.
- 3 I know! I _____ (drive) Tina to the station now.
- 4 We _____ (not/know) the answer to that until next week.
- 5 I've made an appointment at the dentist's. I _____ (see) her on Tuesday.
- 6 This train _____ (stop) at every station between here and London.
- 7 Louise can't come with us. She _____ (take) the car to the garage at four o'clock.

5 Two teenagers, Angela and Darren, were going out together. But then Angela found another boyfriend, Richard. Complete Darren's letter to Angela. Use *will*, *going to* or the present progressive. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

I ¹ _____ (not/phone) you any more, because you asked me not to, but I am writing you a quick note as I've got nothing else to do at the moment. ² _____ (you/go) to the school dance with Richard? I ³ _____ (not/go). Or at least maybe I ⁴ _____ (go) but I probably ⁵ _____ (not/dance) with anybody. I've decided that I ⁶ _____ (not/play) any more *Deep Pit* records because I think of you every time I hear one. I ⁷ _____ (stop) now. The lesson ⁸ _____ (start) soon. I am sure that you and Richard ⁹ _____ (be) really happy together. I ¹⁰ _____ (phone) you next week, if that's OK.