

FUTURE SIMPLE



INTENTION
DECIDED AT THE
TIME OF SPEAKING

We often use **will** in these situations:

Offering to do something

- That bag looks heavy. **I'll help** you with it. (*not* I help)

Agreeing to do something

- A: Can you give Tim this book?
- B: Sure, **I'll give** it to him when I see him this afternoon.

Promising to do something

- Thanks for lending me the money. **I'll pay** you back on Friday.
- I won't tell** anyone what happened. I promise.

Asking somebody to do something (Will you ... ?)

- Will you** please turn the music down? I'm trying to concentrate.

You can use **won't** to say that somebody refuses to do something:

- I've tried to give her advice, but she **won't listen**.
- The car **won't start**. (= the car 'refuses' to start)



PR. CONT.



ARRANGE-
MENT

TO BE GOING TO



PLAN DECIDED
BEFORE THE
TIME OF
SPEAKING

I am doing and I am going to do

We use **I am doing** (*present continuous*) when we say what we have *arranged* to do – for example, arranged to meet somebody, arranged to go somewhere:

- What time **are** you **meeting** Ann this evening?
- I'm **leaving** tomorrow. I've got my plane ticket.

I am going to do something = I've decided to do it (but perhaps not *arranged* to do it):

- 'Your shoes are dirty.' 'Yes, I know. I'm **going to clean** them.' (= I've decided to clean them, but I haven't *arranged* to clean them)
- I've decided not to stay here any longer. Tomorrow I'm **going to look** for somewhere else to stay.

Often the difference is very small and either form is possible.

FUTURE SIMPLE



FOR
PREDICTIONS,
statements of
fact about the
future

We often use **will** ('ll) with:

probably

I'll **probably** be home late tonight.

(I'm) sure

Don't worry about the exam. I'm **sure** you'll pass.

(I) think

Do you **think** Sarah **will** like the present we bought her?

(I) don't think

I **don't think** the exam **will** be very difficult.

I wonder

I **wonder** what **will** happen.

The **future simple** is used:

- for predictions based on what we think, believe or imagine.

*In the year 2050, people **will drive** flying cars.*

- actions which we cannot control but which will definitely happen.

*The baby **will be born** in the new year.*

TO BE GOING TO



IT'S CLEAR
THAT
SOMETHING
WILL HAPPEN

You can also say that 'something **is going to happen**' in the future. For example:



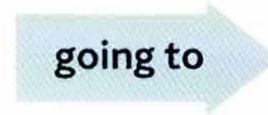
The man isn't looking where he is going.

He **is going to walk** into the wall.

When we say that 'something **is going to happen**', the situation *now* makes this clear. The man is walking towards the wall now, so we can see that he **is going to walk** into it.



situation now



future happening

Some more examples:

- Look at those black clouds! It's **going to rain**. (the clouds are there now)
- I feel terrible. I think I'm **going to be sick**. (I feel terrible now)
- The economic situation is bad now and things **are going to get worse**.

PR. SIMPLE



TIMETABLES

Present simple (I do) with a future meaning

We use the present simple when we talk about timetables, programmes etc. (for public transport, cinemas etc.):

- My train **leaves** at 11.30, so I need to be at the station by 11.15.
- What time **does** the film **start** this evening?
- It's Wednesday tomorrow. / Tomorrow **is** Wednesday.

You can use the present simple to talk about people if their plans are fixed like a timetable:

- I **start** my new job on Monday.
- What time **do** you **finish** work tomorrow?

But the continuous is more usual for personal arrangements:

- What time **are** you **meeting** Ann tomorrow? (*not do you meet*)

Compare:

Present continuous

- What time **are you arriving**?
- I'm going** to the cinema this evening.

Present simple

- What time **does the train arrive**?
- The film starts** at 8.15 (this evening).

Compare:

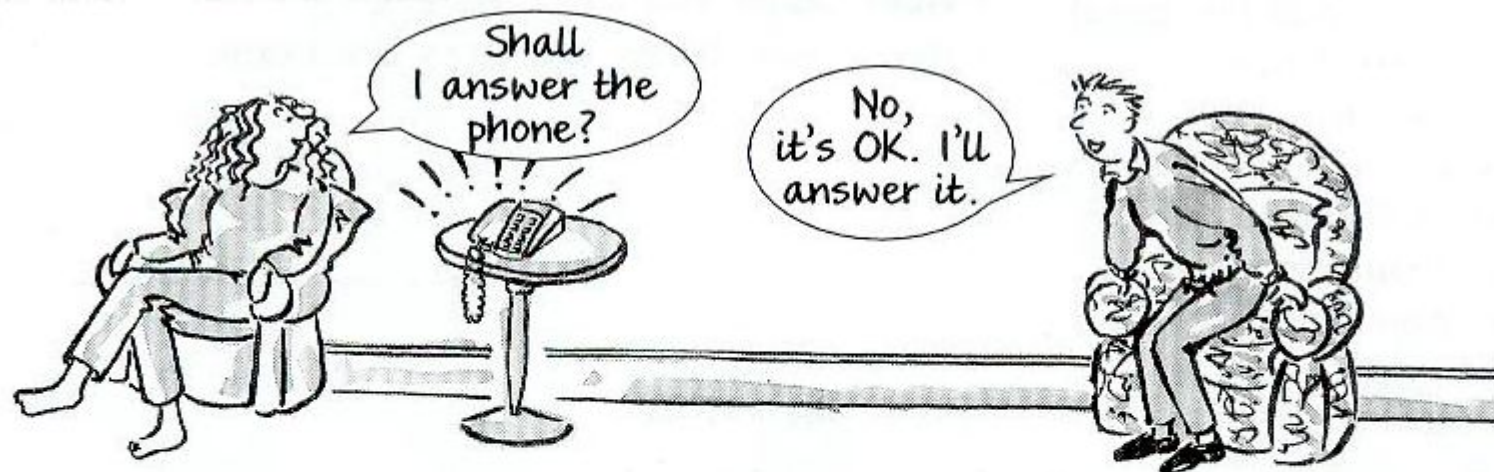
present continuous – usually for people

- **I'm going** to a concert tomorrow.
- What time **are** you **leaving**?

present simple – timetables, programmes etc.

- The concert **starts** at 7.30.
- What time **does** your train **leave** ?

Shall I ... ? Shall we ... ?



Shall I/we ... ? = Do you think this is a good thing to do? Do you think this is a good idea?

- It's very warm in this room. **Shall I open** the window?
- '**Shall I phone** you this evening?' 'Yes, please.'
- I'm going to a party tonight. What **shall I wear**?
- It's a nice day. **Shall we go** for a walk?
- Where **shall we go** for our holidays this year?
- 'Let's go out this evening.' 'OK, what time **shall we meet**?'