

**The 4 principal verbs  
used to express**

**FUTURE**

**Present simple – present  
continuous – going to – will**

# FUTURE

(any moment after NOW)

- ❖ The English language makes a **distinction** between ‘what people do’ and ‘events or time-tables’ (things).
- ❖ For events or time-tables the English language uses the ‘**present simple**’.
- ❖ For ‘people’ it uses the ‘**present continuous**’.

# PRESENT SIMPLE - (for THINGS)

## Timetables and fixed future events

- What time **does** the next train for Hull **leave**?
- It **leaves** at 10.15 a.m.
- When **does** school **start**?
- It **doesn't start** until September.
- **Are** the shops open tomorrow?
- Yes, they **open** at 9 a.m. and **close** at 6 p.m.
- **Is** there a meeting next Wednesday?
- Yes, it **starts** at 3 p.m. **Don't be** late!

## Simple Present – for timetables



Excuse me, does  
this train leave  
for Manchester  
at 7.30 ?

No, this one leaves for  
London in five minutes'  
time. The train to  
Manchester leaves  
from Platform 2 at 7.30.



# PRESENT SIMPLE – PRESENT CONTINUOUS

## REMEMBER:

- Are the shops open? (now)  
Are the shops open, tomorrow? (**future**)
- Hurry! The bus is leaving. (now)  
Hurry! The bus leaves in 5 minutes. (**future**)
- I am playing tennis with John. (now)  
I am playing tennis with John at 6 p.m. (**future**)

# PRESENT CONTINUOUS – ( for PEOPLE)

## Future arrangements – Planned actions

- **I'm not working** in London next week.
- John is leaving on the midnight train.
- We are flying to New York tomorrow morning.
- When are you coming to visit us?
- What are you doing at the weekend?
- **I'm meeting** Mary at 6 o'clock. (Perhaps I am speaking at 2 p.m.)
- They aren't playing tennis this afternoon.
- What time are you going to the gym?
- I'm going later this afternoon.

## Present Continuous for people's programmes

What are you doing tomorrow evening?

I'm meeting Mary at 6:30, then we're going to the cinema to see the new 'Star Wars' film.



# TO BE GOING TO

## People's intentions

We can only have intentions for the future, so although we often use them, adverbs of future time are not always necessary.

## Predictions based on the present time.

From what we see around us we believe that something will happen in the very near future.



## People's intentions



Mom, I'll be back at 5 o'clock. I'm going to play tennis with Mary.



# Previsions based on what we can see



Look at those clouds! It's going to rain in a few minutes.



# TO BE GOING TO

- I'm going to watch TV.
- I'm going to watch TV this evening.
- I'm going to visit Italy sooner or later.
- Is she going to marry him? Yes, she is.
- Is Mary going to have a baby? Yes, in June.
- Are you going to learn German next term?
- **Who is going to wash the dishes? Not me!**
- I think (now) that John is going to go to London in a week's time.

'going to go' is repetitive, so we prefer to say 'is going'

- Are you going to **come with us to the cinema?**  
'going to come' doesn't sound too good so we prefer to say 'are you coming'

# WILL

is used:

- ❖ For requests
- ❖ For promises
- ❖ For snap decisions
- ❖ For predictions
- ❖ For the inevitable
- ❖ To show determination
- ❖ Volunteering to do something
- ❖ In sentences with verbs of opinion
- ❖ In the first conditional

# REQUESTS



# Will

## REQUESTS

### ❖ **Asking somebody to do something**

- **Will** you **help** me (to) cook dinner?
- **Will** you **clean** your bedroom tomorrow, please?
- **Will** you **marry** me?
- **Will** you please **turn** the television **off**?
- I'm afraid to go alone. **Will** you **come** with me?

# Will

## PROMISES

### **Promising to do something** -

- I promise I **will pay** you **back** next Monday.
- I **will** definitely **pay** you **back**. I promise.
- I can't help you today, but I promise I'll **help** you tomorrow.
- **Will** you **promise** me not to tell anyone what I've just told you?

## Snap decisions

Look at the price! I'll try it on and I'll buy it.





# Will

## SNAP DECISIONS

Decisions made instantaneously with no planning

- I like that dress. I'll buy it.
- How will you pay, madam? - I'll pay cash.
- Look! It's snowing. - OK. I'll stay at home then.
- I haven't got any money with me. – Alright, I'll pay this time.
- John, what does this word mean? - I don't know. I'll look it up in the dictionary.

# Predictions



You will  
marry a very  
rich man

# Will

## PREDICTIONS

### Forecast of a future event

- This is the weather forecast. It **will rain** in London tomorrow morning, but it **won't snow**.
- **Will** robots **dominate** the world in 2050?
- He **will graduate** in 5 years' time.
- I'm sure the world **will be** a better place in the near future.
- He **won't be** President for much longer.

# Inevitable



I will be 4  
next year.

# Will

## THE INEVITABLE

Something certain in the future.

- John is 16. He **will be** 17 next June.
- Without water those plants **will die**.
- Unless you are wearing a tie, you **won't be** allowed into the dining room of that 5 star hotel.

# Will

## TO SHOW DETERMINATION

- I don't want to go to school today, mom! - You **WILL** go whether you want to or not!
- You must tell me what John said. - I **WILL NOT** tell you! I won't break the promise I made.
- You can ask me a thousand times but I **WILL NOT** give you any more money!

# Will

## VOLUNTEERING TO DO SOMETHING

- I need some help with this suitcase! - OK, John **will help** you.
- It's very hot in here. - **I'll open** the window if that's alright with you.
- My train leaves at 6.00! Don't worry, **I'll take** you to the station.
- Who'll help me to prepare dinner? - **I will.**

# Will

## IN SENTENCES WITH VERBS OF OPINION

- Do you **think** John **WILL COME** to my party? -  
Yes, I **think** he **WILL**.
- I **believe** John **WILL BE** very pleased when you tell him the news.
- I **wonder** what Mary **WILL SAY** when you tell her.
- I'm **sure** she **WILL BE** very happy in her new house.
- I **know** he **WILL STUDY** very hard for this exam.



# Will

## IN THE FIRST CONDITIONAL

- **If** it rains I **will take** an umbrella with me.
- I **won't come unless** you invite John too.
- **I'll phone** you **if** I leave work later than I usually do.
- John **won't be able to** help us **unless** we ask him well in advance.
- **If** I go to Italy next year **I'll ask** Mary if she would like to come with me.