

Future forms in English

Tenses and other constructions

Future simple

- WILL + VERB
- SHALL+ VERB
- Used for: immediate decisions, offers, promises, requests
- *I think I'll phone her right now.*
- *Shall I open the window?*
- *I'll help you.*

Future continuous

- WILL + BE DOING
- I will be in the middle of doing sth.
- *This time next week I'll be lying on the beach.*
- *Later on the programme, I'll be talking to the Minister of Education.*

Present continuous

- I'M DOING STH.
- Arrangements, plans already decided

- *What are you doing on Sunday?*
- *Alex is getting married next month.*
- *I'm meeting Ann for lunch tomorrow.*

Present simple

- I DO STH.
- Timetables, schedules, programmes, fixed plans
- *My train leaves at 10.30.*
- *The film begins at 7pm.*
- *I start my new job on Monday.*

Going to

- I'M GOING TO DO STH.
- STH. IS GOING TO HAPPEN
- Plans already decided, intentions, predictions from evidence
- *He's going to fall down.*
- *I'm just going to make a quick phone call.*

Future perfect simple

- WILL HAVE DONE
- Sth. will be completed before a time in the future
- *We're late. The film **will already have started** by the time we get to the cinema.*
- *Next year, we **will have been married** for 10 years.*

Future perfect continuous

- WILL HAVE BEEN DOING STH
- Sth. will be happening before a time in the future
- *I've been working here for 24 years. Next year, I will have been working here for 25 years.*

I might...

- I MIGHT (NOT) DO STH.
- Probability, possibility, option, not sure...
- *I might be late tonight. It depends on the traffic.*
- *If I lost my job, I might start my own business.*

I'm about to...

- TO BE ABOUT TO DO STH.
- Informal construction, similar to going to, to be close to doing sth.
- *I was just about to ask you the same thing.*
- *I've never done any cooking and I'm not about to start now!*

To be + infinitive

- TO BE + INFINITIVE
- Formal, newspaper, instructions
- *He is to become the next Prime Minister.*
- *Children are not to be left alone here.*
- *A mother-to-be*

Worksheet

- A: (do) anything this weekend?
B: I don't know. I.....(go) out with some friends or
I.....(stay) in and watch a movie. I haven't decided yet.
- Oh, look at those dark clouds.
It.....definitely.....(rain)!
- Hurry up! The train..... (leave) in 10 minutes!
- This bag looks heavy. I carry it for you?
- I don't think I..... (go) out tonight. I'm too tired.
- Goodnight. I.....(go) to bed now.
- I.....(have) a party next Saturday. I hope you can come.
- The European parliament (introduce) a new law
on safety at work.
- Let's hope the volcanic eruption.....(finish) before
the time we arrive on the island.
- I.....(see) my dentist tomorrow at 10:30.