

4

Talking about the future



Usage

We can use the simple future tense, *be going to*, the present continuous tense and the simple present tense to talk about the future.

- e.g. Calvin **will become** famous one day.
- e.g. Mabel **is not going to wear** any of the swimsuits.
- e.g. Annie is sick. She's **seeing** the doctor today.
- e.g. The train **departs** at 9:15 am.

I'm **not going to wear** these!



We usually use the future tenses with the following time expressions:

tomorrow	tonight	next Saturday	this weekend	this coming Monday
in the future	soon	later	after	in five minutes

- e.g. Tom **is visiting** Happy Park this coming Sunday.
- e.g. I **will finish** my homework tonight.





Part 1 The Simple Future

We use the simple future tense in the following situations:

Situation	Example
Something that will likely happen (but we are not absolutely sure that it will happen)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't worry. Everything will be fine. • It's late. I think Shirley will not come. • Will you go to the park next Monday?
A promise or decision we make at the time of speaking or writing (without planning it)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'This shirt's 50% off now.' 'OK. I'll buy it.' • 'Natalie and I won't be free tomorrow.'



Educator's Tips



We can use *shall* with *I* or *we* in questions to:

1. make offers. e.g. *Shall I buy you some food?*
2. give suggestions. e.g. *Shall we have some drinks?*

We usually use the simple present tense instead of *will* after *when*, *until*, *after*, *before* and *as soon as*.

- ✗ *I will be a lawyer when I will grow up.*
 ✓ *I will be a lawyer when I grow up.*



Exercise 1

Put the words in the correct order to form sentences.

1. will / to school / not / bring / Jenny / her mobile phone

Jenny will not bring her mobile phone to school

2. the weather / will / hope / tomorrow / be / fine / I

3. will / Sandra / on stage / perform / not / next year

4. you / buy / visit Belgium / will / you / some chocolate / when

5. we / watch / shall / tonight / the new film



Part 2 Be going to

We use *be going to* in the following situations:

Situation	Example
Something that will surely happen in the future	Look at these clouds in the sky! It is going to rain soon.
A plan or decision that we have already made	Mum has bought some squids and prawns. Is she going to make seafood salad?



Educator's Tips



We use *be going to* for predictions based on **some evidence**; while we use *will* to talk about things we think may happen when there is **not much evidence**.

e.g. *Peter slips. He's going to fall off the tree!* (Some evidence)

e.g. *I think you'll fall off the tree.* (Not much evidence)

Exercise 2

Complete the conversation with the correct form of the verbs in brackets or proper responses.

Mr Li: Where are you going to go this summer, Sarah?

Sarah: I (1) _____ (visit) my cousin in the US because she and her fiancé
(2) _____ (get) married in July.

Mr Li: Oh, really? (3) _____ you _____ (be) her bridesmaid?

Sarah: Yes, I am. I (4) _____ (help) Lily get dressed and greet the guests. It's my first time to be a bridesmaid. I'm so nervous!

Mr Li: Just relax. I think you (5) _____ (do) a great job! Are you going to return to Hong Kong right after the wedding?

Sarah: (6) No, _____ . My parents and I have planned to stay in the US longer. We (7) _____ (not stay) in San Francisco only. My uncle (8) _____ (take) us to New York. I guess we (9) _____ (not leave) the US until mid-August.



Part 3 The Present Continuous

We use the present continuous tense to talk about a **plan** or **decision** that we have already made.

e.g. *I'm not eating at home tonight.*

e.g. *Is Angel joining the singing contest next Sunday?*



Educator's Tips



We can usually use either *be going to* or the present continuous tense for plans or decisions we have made.

e.g. *The Chan family are migrating / are going to migrate to Germany soon.*

Remember that we can also use the present continuous tense to talk about the present.

e.g. *I am climbing the Himalayas with some friends next summer. (Future)*



e.g. *I am climbing the Himalayas at the moment. (Present)*

Exercise 3

Jacob is writing a tour plan. Complete the tour plan with the correct form of the verbs given. Each verb can be used **ONCE** only. Underline the time expressions.

dine meet visit stay arrive shop take watch ride

The Chan's 2-Day Macau Tour Plan

Day 1	<p>We (1) <u>are meeting // are going to meet</u> at the pier <u>at 12 pm</u> and we (2) _____ in Macau at 2 pm. We (3) _____ on the cable car to Guia Fortress. At night, we (4) _____ at New Lisbon Restaurant. We (5) _____ at Grand Hayden Hotel.</p>	
Day 2	<p>We (6) _____ photos at the Ruins of St. Paul after breakfast. Mum and Jill (7) _____ at Senado Square in the afternoon. Dad and I (8) _____ some of the museums. We (9) _____ <i>The House of Dancing Water</i> at 7 pm and returning to Hong Kong at 10 pm.</p>	



Part 4 The Simple Present

We use the simple present tense to talk about **fixed, scheduled events in the future**. These events are usually part of a **timetable, schedule, calendar** or an itinerary.

- e.g. The ferry **does not leave** at 7:15 pm. It **leaves** at 7:15 am! (Timetable)
- e.g. The tour to Beijing **comes back** to Hong Kong on the afternoon of 15 August. (Schedule)
- e.g. The second school term **starts** on 13 January. (Calendar)



Educator's Tips



Remember that we can also use the simple present tense to talk about the present.

- e.g. The party **starts** at 8 pm tonight. (Future)
- e.g. Our family usually **starts** having dinner at 8 pm. (Present)

Let's go. Dinner starts soon.



Exercise 4

Fill in the blanks with the correct simple present or present continuous form of the verbs given. Each verb can be used **ONCE** only.

open	begin	have	arrive	head
not stay	not go	watch	leave	start


Fiona: The new IVAX cinema (1) opens this Saturday. Ann and I
(2) are watching the film *Space Rangers* there. Will you come, John?

John: Yes, of course. When (3) _____ the film _____?

Fiona: It (4) _____ at 5 pm but we (5) _____ a bit earlier.

John: OK. (6) _____ we _____ dinner together after the film?

Fiona: No, Ann (7) _____ out late because she lives far away.

John: Dad (8)  _____ to work on that day. He can drive us home.

Fiona: Thanks, but she lives in Cheung Chau so she needs to take the ferry. The last ferry
(9) _____ at 8:30 pm. She (10) _____ home right after
the film.

Unit Recap

Vincent is a member of Green Action. He wrote a proposal for the Green Community Programme, but he made some mistakes about the verbs. Correct the underlined mistakes by writing the correct words above them.

Proposal for the Green Community Programme

According to our study in April 20XX, all existing landfills in Hong Kong

(1) are not available by next year if no strategy for reducing waste is carried out. To ease the burden of landfills, we propose the following schemes for recycling waste:

1. Household Waste

We believe only reducing waste at source (2) is going to solve the problem in the long term. We (3) encourage the community to separate their household waste at source. At the same time, we (4) will put 1,000 recycling bins in different locations by the end of July. We suppose that we (5) are recycling waste paper, plastic bottles and metals in a larger scale.

2. Food Waste

Food waste is one of the significant sources of solid waste. To tackle this problem, we (6) will set up a food bank to recycle food while helping people in need. It (7) is opening on 28th August. We (8) will ask the community to donate unwanted food. Also, we (9) will collect unsold food from more than 500 restaurants and supermarkets. Then the food will be distributed to the needy once a day.



We sincerely hope that this proposal (10) is going to benefit our environment.



Vocabulary:

tackle (v.): to deal with something or someone

benefit (v.): to be useful to or make a good effect on