

VERBS, FUTURE

THE FUTURE TENSE

The future tense can be expressed in three most common ways:

- 1/ Use present tense with **time maker indicating a point in time in the future.**
- 2/ Add auxiliary verbs **will** or **shall** in front of an infinitive (base form of verbs).
- 3/ Add “**be going to**” in front of an infinitive (base form of verbs)

1. PRESENT TENSE for FUTURE ACTIONS or EVENTS

The **present simple** and **present continuous** can be used to talk about actions or events in the future. They are often **accompanied with words or phrases indicating a point in time in the future.**

Examples:

They **begin** their trip **today**. (present tense)

They **begin** their trip **tomorrow**. (future tense)

It **is** my turn to wash the dishes. (present tense)

It **is** my turn to wash the dishes next week. (future tense)

Do we **have** a meeting **today**? (present tense)

Do we **have** a meeting **tomorrow**? (future tense)

The plane **arrives** as scheduled. (present tense)

The plane **arrives** as scheduled **later this evening**. (future tense)

John **is playing** tennis. (present continuous)

John **is playing** tennis **tomorrow evening**. (future tense)

She **is having** dinner with Mike. (present continuous)

She **is having** dinner with Mike **this weekend**. (future tense)

They **are getting** married. (present continuous)

They **are getting** married **next month**. (future tense)

Is the train arriving? (present continuous)

Is the train **arriving later at noon**? (future tense)

The rain **is not coming** as forecasted. (present continuous)

The rain **is not coming later** as forecasted. (future tense)

2. FUTURE SIMPLE with “WILL” or “SHALL”.

Auxiliary verbs “**will**” or “**shall**” can be **added in front of an infinitive** (base form of verbs) to talk about actions or events in the future.

Examples:

It **will be** a nice day tomorrow. (prediction)

I **will help** you do your homework. (promise, offer)

They **will come** at 6 PM. (anticipation)

We **will start** school next week. (future action)

He most likely **will love** his new adopted country. (prediction)

The dog **will run** with me in the morning. (future action)

You **will feel** at home right away. (assurance)

She **will try** her best. (promise)

“**Shall**” is rarely used in American English. Typically “**shall**” is only used with “**I**” or “**we**” (first person pronouns) to make offers, suggestions, emphasis or to ask for a decision (and “**will**” should be avoided).

Examples:

Shall we go for a walk after dinner? (ask for a decision)

I am going to the supermarket. **Shall** I pick up something for you? (offer)

Shall we meet afterschool? (ask for a decision)

Shall I help you get ready for the party? (offer)

I **shall** not pass through this way again! (emphasis)

We **shall** not break the laws! (emphasis)

We **shall** order pizza for the get together. (suggestion)

Shall we order pizza or Chinese foods for the get together? (ask for a decision)

In most of the above examples, “**shall**” are often substituted with “**should**”. We will discuss more about “**should**” in another class.

NEGATIVE STATEMENT with AUXILIARIES “WILL” or “SHALL”

For negative statement using **will** or **shall** in the future simple, negative adverb “**not**” or “**never**” is added between the auxiliary and the infinitive (base form of verbs).

I **shall not** make the same mistake again.

We **shall never** give up.

She **will not** accept her responsibility.

They **will never** surrender.

Her white lie **will not** hurt anyone.

You **will never** understand my feelings.

QUESTIONS with AUXILIARIES “WILL” or “SHALL”

For questions with **will** or **shall** in the future simple, **the auxiliaries and subject switch position.**

I **will** be a good teacher -> **Will** I be a good teacher?

He **will** keep his promise -> **Will** he keep his promise?

She **will** do her best -> **Will** she do her best?

The dog **will** get along with him -> **Will** the dog get along with him?

We **shall** conquer our fear -> **Shall** we conquer our fear?

They **will** demand justice -> **Will** they demand justice?

I **shall** join the army -> **Shall** I join the army?

Practice1: Complete the sentence with future tense using the verb given in parentheses.

1. His friend _____ with him to work. (car-pool)
2. She _____ to the library after school. (go)
3. Dad _____ work before dusk. (finish)
4. They _____ tennis next Sunday. (play)
5. She _____ before dawn. (get up)
6. He _____ shelves at the supermarket. (stock)
7. Everyone _____ to be vaccinated. (need)
8. I _____ good feelings when he _____ around. (have, be)
9. He _____ his parents coming over for dinner this Saturday. (have)
10. I _____ you feel comfortable. (make)
11. She _____ to him every week. (write)
12. The phone _____ around noon. (buzz)
13. She _____ once a day. (call)
14. He _____ to work twice a week. (bike)
15. She _____ on his progresses regularly. (check)
16. They _____ very approachable to customers. (be)
17. Uncle Bill _____ for my dad. (work)
18. She _____ the way he _____. (like, behave)
19. Tom _____ business with pleasure. (mix)
20. _____ we _____ for the trip today? (pack)

Answers1(a):

1. His friend **will car-pool** with him to work starting next week.
2. She **will go** to the library after school.
3. Dad **will finish** work before dusk.
4. They **will play** tennis next Sunday.
5. She **will get up** before dawn.
6. He **will stock** shelves at the supermarket tomorrow.
7. Everyone **will need** to be vaccinated.
8. I **shall have** good feelings when he **will be** around.
9. He **will have** his parents coming over for dinner this Saturday.
10. I **will make** you feel comfortable.
11. She **will write** to him every week.
12. The phone **will buzz** around noon.
13. She **will call** once a day.
14. He **will bike** to work twice a week.
15. She **will check** on his progresses tomorrow.
16. They **will be** very approachable to customers.
17. Uncle Bill **will work** for my dad.
18. She **will like** the way he **will behave**.
19. Tom **will mix** business with pleasure.

20. **Shall** we **pack** for the trip today?

NOTICE: The **present simple can also be used** to talk about actions or events in the future **when accompanied with words or phrases indicating a point in time in the future**. For example, the present simple can be used for future tense in any of the **sentence that have markers of future** in **Answers1(a)**

Answers1(b): Alternative answers using present simple to talk about actions in the future (in sentence that have markers of future)

1. His friend **car-pool** with him to work starting **next week**.
2. She **goes** to the library **after school**.
3. Dad **finishes** work **before dusk**.
4. They **play** tennis **next Sunday**.
5. She **gets up** **before dawn**.
6. He **stocks** shelves at the supermarket **tomorrow**.
7. Everyone **will need** to be vaccinated. (no marker of future)
8. **I shall have** good feelings when he is around. (no marker of future)
9. He **has** his parents coming over for dinner **this Saturday**.
10. I **will make** you feel comfortable. (no marker of future)
11. She **writes** to him **every week**.
12. The phone **buzzes** **around noon**.
13. She **calls** **once a day**.
14. He **bikes** to work **twice a week**.
15. She **checks** on his progresses **tomorrow**.
16. They will be very approachable to customers. (no marker of future)
17. Uncle Bill **will work** for my dad. (no marker of future)
18. She **will like** the way he behaves. (no marker of future)
19. Tom **will mix** business with pleasure. (no marker of future)
20. **Shall** we **pack** for the trip today? (no marker of future)

In sentence 8: "**I shall have**" serves as marker for the future so "he is around" can be in present tense.

In sentence 18: "**She will like**" serves as marker for the future so "he behaves" can be in present tense.

3. FUTURE SIMPLE with "BE GOING TO"

A common structure for future tense is formed by adding auxiliary "**be going to**" in front of an infinitive (base form of verbs) to talk about actions or events in the future.

Examples:

It **will be** a nice day tomorrow. (prediction)

It **is going to be** a nice day tomorrow. (prediction)

I **will help** you do your homework. (offer)

I **am going to help** you do your homework. (intended action)

They **will come** at 6 PM. (future action)

They **are going to come** at 6 PM. (intended action)

We **will start** school next week. (future action)

We **are going to start** school next week. (intended action)

He most likely **will like** his new adopted country. (prediction)

He most likely **is going to like** his new adopted country. (prediction)

The dog **will run** with me every morning. (future action)

The dog **is going to run** with me every morning. (intended action)

You **will feel** at home right away. (prediction)

You **are going to feel** at home right away. (prediction)

She **will try** her best. (future action)

She **is going to try** her best. (intended action)

NEGATIVE STATEMENT WITH AUXILIARIES “BE GOING TO”

For negative statement using “**be going to**” in the future simple, negative adverb “**not**” or “**never**” is added between “**be**” and “**going to**”.

I **shall not** make the same mistake -> I **am not going to** make the same mistake

We **shall never** give up -> We **are never going to** give up

She **will not** accept her responsibility -> She **is not going to** accept her responsibility

They **will never** surrender -> They **are never going to** surrender

Her white lie **will not** hurt anyone -> Her white lie **is not going to** hurt anyone

You **will never** understand my feelings -> You **are never going to** understand my feelings

QUESTIONS WITH AUXILIARIES “BE GOING TO”

For questions with “**be going to**” in the future simple, the **verb “be”** and **subject** switch position.

I **am going to** be a good teacher -> **Am I going to** be a good teacher?

He **is going to** keep his promise -> **Is he going to** keep his promise?

She **is going to** do her best -> **Is she going to** do her best?

The dog **is going to** get along with him -> **Is the dog going to** get along with him?

We **are going to** conquer our fear -> **Are we going to** conquer our fear?

They **are going to** demand justice -> **Are they going to** demand justice?

I **am going to** join the army -> **Am I going to** join the army?

Practice2: Change the following sentences to future tense using “**be going to**”.

1. His friend will drive with him to work.
2. Will she go to the library after school?
3. Dad will not finish work before dusk.
4. They will play tennis every Sunday.
5. She will get up before dawn.
6. I shall be a good role model.
7. Everyone will need to be calm.
8. Will I have the opportunity to travel?
9. He will not have his parents coming over for dinner.
10. They will not be comfortable in this environment.
11. I shall honor my commitment.
12. We shall not be home for the holidays.
13. She will be diligent.
14. He will think carefully about your proposal.
15. She will make the reports regularly.
16. Will the adventure make us famous?
17. Sadly, Uncle Bill will get a divorce.
18. Her tenacity will help her succeed.
19. The drama will not stop.
20. Will the pain go away soon?

Answers2:

1. His friend **is going to** drive with him to work.
2. **Is she going to** go to the library after school?

3. Dad **is not going to** finish work before dusk.
4. They **are going to** play tennis every Sunday.
5. She **is going to** get up before dawn.
6. I **am going to** be a good role model.
7. Everyone **is going to** need to be calm.
8. **Am I going to** have the opportunity to travel?
9. He **is not going to** have his parents coming over for dinner.
10. They **are not going to** be comfortable in this environment.
11. I **am going to** honor my commitment.
12. We **are not going to** be home for the holidays.
13. She **is going to** be diligent.
14. He **is going to** think carefully about your proposal.
15. She **is going to** make the reports regularly.
16. **Is the adventure going to** make us famous?
17. Sadly, Uncle Bill **is going to** get a divorce.
18. Her tenacity **is going to** help her succeed.
19. The drama **is not going to** stop.
20. **Is the pain going to** go away soon?