

In English, there are five different verb forms you can use to talk about things that happen in the future. You use different future forms to describe different situations.

## Will-future

To form the **will-future**, we use **will + infinitive without to**. We use the **will-future** for:

- a) describing a sequence of events in the future
  - *First, we'll **do** some market research and then **we'll study** the results.*
- b) offering help spontaneously
  - *I'll **help** you carry those folders.*
- c) making a promise
  - *I **won't leave** the office until we finish this report.*
- d) making predictions
  - *I think Tom **will be** the next CFO.*

When we speak or write in a context that isn't formal, we normally use the short forms **'ll** and **won't**. We use the long forms **will** and **will not** in formal contexts.

## Going to-future

To form the **going to-future**, we use **am/is/are + going to + infinitive without to**. We use the **going to-future** for:

- a) describing plans we've made for the future
  - *We're **going to take** our visitors to Oktoberfest at the weekend.*
- b) saying what we want to do in the future (i.e. our intentions)
  - *I'm **going to improve** my work-life balance this year.*
- c) making predictions (usually when we predict that something is going to happen)
  - *Look at those black clouds – I think it's **going to rain**.*

## Present continuous

We use the present continuous to describe arrangements we've made for the future. An arrangement can be made between:

- a) two or more people
  - *Julian and I **are meeting** for a coffee on Tuesday morning.*
- b) two or more companies
  - *Lieferco **is delivering** that shipment for us.*
- c) a person/people and a company
  - *I'm **flying** to Calgary with Air Canada on Sunday.*

## Present simple

We use the present simple for planned events that are scheduled in the future. For example:

- a) regular meetings at work
  - *Our next meeting **is** on Monday at 10 a.m.*
- b) bus or train times
  - *My train **leaves** at 14:54.*

## Future perfect

To form the future perfect, we use *will* + present perfect (*have/has* + past participle). We use the future perfect to say what we expect to have happened by a specific future point in time.

For example, we use the future perfect for:

- a) talking about your future career plans or life goals
  - Ten years after I graduate, I'll **have got** a job as a sales manager in a big company.
- b) saying when you will have finished something by
  - I'll **have finished** this essay by tomorrow.