

# Simple Future

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# Quick and Handy Grammar Review

## THE SIMPLE FUTURE: THREE FORMS

There are three ways to express a future time in English:  
**will + base verb**, **be going to + base verb**, or **be + -ing verb**.  
How and when do we use these forms?

### A. Will + Base Verb

This form is used when you are deciding future plans *at the moment*.

For example, if someone invited you to go to a party next Friday, you could answer, "*Sure, I will go with you.*"

*Will + base verb* is the most **formal** way of forming the future tense.

#### Examples:

- A: Do you two want to go to the movies later?  
B: Sure, we **will go**.
- She **will do** whatever her mother tells her to do.
- When you enter the room on Monday, you **will see** a sign-up sheet on the table.

### B. Be Going To + Base Verb

This form is used when plans *have already been made in advance*.

For example, if you have plans to go camping next weekend and someone asks you what you are going to do, you could answer, "*I'm going to go camping next weekend.*"

*Be going to + base verb* is more **casual** than *will + base verb*. It is also more common than *be + -ing verb*.

#### Examples:

- He **is going to study** all night for his test.
- They **are going to go** to Disneyland next spring.
- I **am** definitely **going to call** you tomorrow.

#### Note:

The *be* verb is conjugated according to the subject (*am, are, is*).

#### Pronunciation Note:

*Going to* sounds like *gonna*. Use *gonna* when speaking, but never write *gonna*!

## Quick and Handy Grammar Review cont.

### C. Be + -ing Verb

Sometimes English speakers use the present progressive as a future form. It is used the same way as *be going to* (when plans are already made). For example, if you have plans to go camping next weekend and someone asks you what you are going to do, you could answer, "*I'm going camping next weekend.*"

The present progressive is a **casual** way of forming the future. It is most often used for the near future (tonight, tomorrow, next weekend, etc.).

#### Examples:

- My roommate **is going** to Hawaii next weekend.
- We **are planning** to discuss this at the next meeting.
- I **am calling** him back tomorrow after class.

#### Note:

The *be* verb is conjugated according to the subject (*am, are, is*).

### D. Did You Know?

#### Note #1:

##### WHAT ARE SOME COMMON FUTURE TIME MARKERS IN ENGLISH?

*Time markers* are words that show the time (past, present, or future) of a sentence in English. Common time markers for the future include:

- **tomorrow**
- **the day after tomorrow**
- **next** (next week, next month, next year, etc.)
- **from now**  
(two days from now, three weeks from now, etc.)
- **in** (in four days, in two months, etc.)
- **when** (when two future sentences are joined together—see note #2)

#### Note #2:

##### WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE USE TWO FUTURE VERBS IN THE SAME SENTENCE?

1. English does NOT use a future form twice in most sentences! The **simple future** form is used in the **independent clause** and the **simple present** is used in the **dependent clause**.
2. The order of the clauses can change in a sentence with no difference in meaning, so the best way to know which clause is dependent (and requires a present verb) is to look for the *adverb of time* (when, while, etc.). When a sentence begins with a dependent clause, a **comma** must be used.
3. The verb in the dependent clause is in the simple present tense, so third person singular subjects take a verb ending in **-s**.

#### Examples:

- He **will call** you when he **arrives** in Las Vegas tomorrow. / When he **arrives** in Las Vegas tomorrow, he **will call** you.
- We **are going to study** for the final exam when my friends **come** over next weekend. / When my friends **come** over next weekend, we **are going to study** for the final exam.
- She **is going to apply** to university when she **graduates**. / When she **graduates**, she **is going to apply** to university.

## Quick and Handy Grammar Review cont.

### E. Quick Review

	<b>Will + base verb</b>	<b>Be going to + base verb</b>	<b>Be + -ing verb (present progressive)</b>
<b>Use</b>	Use when deciding future plans <i>at the moment</i>	Use when future plans <i>have already been made</i>	Use when future plans <i>have already been made</i>
<b>Notes</b>	Formal future form (preferred in writing; it may be used formally even when plans have already been made)	Casual future form (preferred in speaking; most common form; <i>going to</i> is often reduced to <i>gonna</i> )	Casual future form (preferred in speaking; used especially for the near future)
<b>Example Statement</b>	Yes, I <b>will go</b> to the movies with you tonight.	He <b>is going to study</b> all weekend for his test.	She <b>is giving</b> her presentation tomorrow.
<b>Example Negative</b>	No, I <b>will not be</b> ready to go at 5:00.	They <b>are not going to go</b> to the party because they have school tomorrow.	We <b>are not leaving</b> until we get an answer.
<b>Example Question</b>	<b>Will you call</b> me later?	<b>Is she going to read</b> that entire book tonight?	<b>Are they coming</b> over for dinner on Friday?

## Exercise 1: Fill in the Blanks

### WILL

#### A. Long Form

Write the verb in the future tense with *will* or *will not*.

1. My neighbour is sick, so he will not go to work tomorrow morning.  
(go, not)
2. My mom \_\_\_\_\_ the lights off at 9:00 pm.  
(turn)
3. I think \_\_\_\_\_ home today.  
(walk)
4. Their kids \_\_\_\_\_ in the park after dark.  
(play, not)
5. Our teacher \_\_\_\_\_ us a quiz next Thursday.  
(give)
6. My husband \_\_\_\_\_ you back after he gets out of the shower.  
(call)
7. The movie \_\_\_\_\_ at 8:00 pm.  
(start)
8. Her parents \_\_\_\_\_ her. They \_\_\_\_\_ her instead.  
(text, not) (call)



## Exercise 2: Fortune-Telling

### WILL

#### A. Write Fortunes

Write five fortunes with *will* and five with *won't*.

Ex. *You will live until you're 100 years old.*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

Ex. *You won't break any bones this year.*

6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

#### B. Be a Fortune-Teller

Next, ask a classmate to choose a number between 1 and 10. Read out the fortune you wrote in Part A for that number, and then pick a number and listen to your classmate's fortune for you! Repeat with all your classmates.

#### Example:

A: Choose a number between 1 and 10.

B: Number 8.

A: You won't eat vegetables for dinner.

B: Oh, good. I don't like vegetables! Now you can choose a number.

A: Number 3.

B: You will win the lottery!

A: Awesome!

## Exercise 3: Choose the Verb

### BE GOING TO

#### A. Long Form

Choose the correct word from the list on the right to complete the following sentences. Use the correct form of the future tense with *be going to*. Use *am*, *are*, or *is*. Do not use contractions in this exercise.

**Word List:**

- wear      • give      • change      • clean
- ~~email~~      • practise      • hang

1. My brother sent me an email yesterday. I am going to email him back tomorrow.
2. My house is very dirty. I \_\_\_\_\_ it tomorrow.
3. Miriam is going to a party next Saturday. She \_\_\_\_\_ her new red dress.
4. Robert bought a new painting at the art show. He \_\_\_\_\_ it over the sofa in his living room.
5. The hockey championship is next month. The boys \_\_\_\_\_ every night next week.
6. It's our parents' anniversary tomorrow. We \_\_\_\_\_ them a gift certificate to a popular restaurant.
7. My car has a flat tire. My brother \_\_\_\_\_ it later today.

#### B. Short Form

Choose the correct verb from the list on the right to complete the following sentences. Use the contracted form of the future tense with *be going to*. Use *'m*, *'re*, or *'s*.

**Word List:**

- get      • take      • ask      • ~~study~~
- visit      • quit      • exchange

1. We have a math exam in three days. We 're going to study very hard for it.
2. It's very cold and rainy outside. I \_\_\_\_\_ a nice, hot bath as soon as I get home from this soccer game.
3. Ellie has a hair appointment this afternoon. She \_\_\_\_\_ her hair cut and coloured.
4. Jack hates his job. He \_\_\_\_\_ next week.
5. Sue got a sweater from her mother-in-law for her birthday. It didn't fit, so she \_\_\_\_\_ it for a larger size.
6. Sam just got his driver's licence. He \_\_\_\_\_ his father to let him borrow the car next weekend.
7. Their grandmother is in the hospital. They \_\_\_\_\_ her next weekend.

## Exercise 4: What's Going to Happen?

### BE GOING TO

Read the following sentences and add another one using your own ideas. Try to write some positive sentences using *be + going + to + verb* and some negative sentences using *be + not + going + to + verb*. Use contractions.

Ex. She has a bad toothache.

*She's going to call the dentist. OR She's not going to eat an apple.*

---

1. He doesn't understand the meaning of that word.

---

2. She wants to see that new movie but doesn't know what time it starts.

---

3. Bill doesn't want to change jobs.

---

4. Grandma feels very tired.

---

5. Carla is baking a cake and just ran out of sugar.

---

6. John doesn't need to go to work today.

---

7. Rhonda and Murray are thinking about taking a holiday but don't know where to go.

---

8. Someone stole our car last night.

---

9. Margaret gained 10 pounds in the past month.

---

## Exercise 5: Goal-Setting

### BE GOING TO

#### A. My Goals

What are some goals that you have? Get into small groups. First, write down five personal goals, and then share them with your group members.

Ex. 1. *I'm going to be a pilot.*

Ex. 2. *I'm going to learn how to skateboard.*

Ex. 3. *I'm going to travel to Europe next summer.*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

#### B. My Group's Goals

Now write down one interesting goal from each member of your group.

Classmate	Goal
<i>Michelle</i>	<i>She's going to learn Japanese.</i>

## Exercise 6: Questions & Answers

### WILL, BE GOING TO & PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

#### A. Reference

WILL		
Questions	Short Answers	
Will you pass the test?	Yes, I will.	No, I won't.
Will he do his homework tonight?	Yes, he will.	No, he won't.
Will they finish school on time?	Yes, they will.	No, they won't.
BE GOING TO		
Questions	Short Answers	
Are you going to clean your room this weekend?	Yes, I am.	No, I'm not.
Is she going to go to the park after school?	Yes, she is.	No, she isn't. / No, she's not.
Are they going to buy a new car?	Yes, they are.	No, they aren't. / No, they're not.
PRESENT PROGRESSIVE		
Questions	Short Answers	
Are you going to Spain next fall?	Yes, I am.	No, I'm not.
Is he visiting his grandparents tomorrow?	Yes, he is.	No, he's not. / No, he isn't.
Are they getting a new pet?	Yes, they are.	No, they aren't. / No, they're not.

## Exercise 6: Questions & Answers cont.

### B. Short Answers

Write a short answer for each question using the word in parentheses.

1. Are you going snowboarding next weekend? (**no**)

*No, I'm not.*

5. Is he planning to see a movie on Friday? (**yes**)

2. Is she going to call you tonight? (**no**)

6. Will he join us for dinner? (**no**)

3. Will you be ready for the quiz tomorrow morning? (**yes**)

7. Will we finish our project on time? (**yes**)

4. Are they going to go to that new restaurant? (**no**)

8. Are you going to wash your car soon? (**yes**)

Now write three future questions to ask your partner using *will*, *be going to*, and the *present progressive*.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## Exercise 6: Questions & Answers cont.

### C. Questions and Answers

Practise making questions and giving short answers.

1. I'm going to buy a new car.

*Are you going to buy a new car?*

*Yes, I am.*

2. They won't be at school tomorrow.

3. I'm not going to call him back this afternoon.

4. We're going to visit our aunt next summer.

5. He's not going to Hawaii next month.

6. She is going to graduate next spring.

7. They will bring their notes to the meeting tomorrow morning.

8. He's having a party on Friday.

## Exercise 7: Pair Work (Student A)

### BE GOING TO

#### A. Sarah's Schedule

Here is your friend Sarah's schedule, but it is missing some information. Ask your partner about the missing plans and fill in the schedule. Practise saying "gonna" instead of "going to."

**Example:**

A: What is Sarah going to do on Monday evening?

B: She is going to go to a movie with Dave.

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
morning		meet with boss		attend conference		clean apartment	
afternoon	buy groceries for the week		go to gym		buy food for party		take nephew to the zoo
evening	movie with Dave	do work reports		do the ironing		party	

#### B. My Schedule

Now answer the questions about yourself in complete sentences with *be going to*.

1. What are you going to do next Monday afternoon?

---

2. What are you going to do next Wednesday evening?

---

3. What are you going to do next Friday morning?

---

4. What are you going to do next Saturday evening?

---

5. What are you going to do next Sunday morning?

---

## Exercise 7: Pair Work (Student B)

### BE GOING TO

#### A. Sarah's Schedule

Here is your friend Sarah's schedule, but it is missing some information. Ask your partner about the missing plans and fill in the schedule. Practise saying "gonna" instead of "going to."

**Example:**

A: What is Sarah going to do on Monday evening?  
B: She is going to go to a movie with Dave.

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
morning	doctor's appointment		return library books		go to gym		visit grandmother
afternoon		go to gym		attend conference		cook, prepare for party	
evening	movie with Dave		dinner with girlfriends		dinner with parents		relax at home

#### B. My Schedule

Now answer the questions about yourself in complete sentences with *be going to*.

1. What are you going to do next Monday afternoon?

---

2. What are you going to do next Wednesday evening?

---

3. What are you going to do next Friday morning?

---

4. What are you going to do next Saturday evening?

---

5. What are you going to do next Sunday morning?

---

## Exercise 8: Will or Be Going To?

### WILL VS. BE GOING TO

Complete the following sentences using the correct form of *will* or *be going to* with the verb provided. Use contractions whenever possible. Be prepared to explain the reason for your choice.

- Ex. 1. A: Can you come to my party tomorrow?  
B: Sure, I \_\_\_\_\_ *'ll come* \_\_\_\_\_ !

*"Will" is used when making a decision at the moment.*

- Ex. 2. Next summer, she \_\_\_\_\_ *'s going to go* \_\_\_\_\_ to Japan.

*"Be going to" is used when plans are already made.*

1. Sam feels sick. He knows that he \_\_\_\_\_ (stay) \_\_\_\_\_ home from work tomorrow.
2. I can't go out for dinner because I \_\_\_\_\_ (finish) \_\_\_\_\_ my homework.
3. A: I left my wallet at home.  
B: That's okay. I \_\_\_\_\_ (lend) \_\_\_\_\_ you some money.
4. I don't think I \_\_\_\_\_ (be) \_\_\_\_\_ able to come to your party.
5. Frank \_\_\_\_\_ (take) \_\_\_\_\_ a two-week holiday next year.
6. That box looks very heavy. I \_\_\_\_\_ (help) \_\_\_\_\_ you carry it.
7. I bought some paint because I \_\_\_\_\_ (paint) \_\_\_\_\_ my apartment.
8. He \_\_\_\_\_ (wear) \_\_\_\_\_ a black tuxedo to the wedding. What \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ (wear) \_\_\_\_\_ ?
9. A: Why did you take the sugar out of the cupboard?  
B: I \_\_\_\_\_ (bake) \_\_\_\_\_ a cake.
10. They took money out of the bank because they \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) \_\_\_\_\_ a new TV for their daughter.

## Exercise 8: Will or Be Going To? cont.

11. It's very hot in here. I \_\_\_\_\_ the window for you.  
(open)
12. The weatherman says it \_\_\_\_\_ a beautiful day tomorrow,  
(be)  
so I think I \_\_\_\_\_ to the beach.  
(go)
13. We probably \_\_\_\_\_ to the party next weekend.  
(not/go)
14. A: Can I please talk to the manager?  
B: He \_\_\_\_\_ with you in a moment.  
(be)
15. The Andersons went to the travel agency yesterday. They \_\_\_\_\_ their tickets tomorrow.  
(buy)
16. We \_\_\_\_\_ that new movie tonight. Do you want to come with us?  
(see)
17. Allan \_\_\_\_\_ up early tomorrow so that he can go fishing.  
(get)
18. Okay, I \_\_\_\_\_ you move tomorrow.  
(help)
19. A: Do you have any holiday plans?  
B: Yes. We \_\_\_\_\_ a Mediterranean cruise.  
(take)
20. A: Ronnie can't drive me to the airport.  
B: That's okay. I \_\_\_\_\_ you.  
(take)

## Exercise 9: Travel Plans

### WILL VS. BE GOING TO

#### A. Fill in the Blanks

Complete the dialogue by writing in the correct future verb.  
Do not use contractions. Use *will* if someone is making the decision right now. Use *be going to* if the plans were already made before.

**Kate:** Hi, David! I heard you \_\_\_\_\_ to Australia! When \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ ?  
1. go 2. leave

**David:** Hey, Kate! I \_\_\_\_\_ in two weeks.  
3. leave

**Kate:** Wow! You \_\_\_\_\_ an amazing experience.  
4. have

**David:** I hope so. I'm not sure if I should start packing now. What do you think?

**Kate:** I think it's better to get organized as soon as possible.

**David:** You're right. I \_\_\_\_\_ packing tonight.  
5. start

**Kate:** That's a good idea. So what \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ first?  
6. see

**David:** I \_\_\_\_\_ to the Sydney Opera House.  
7. stop by

**Kate:** Good idea!

**David:** Maybe I \_\_\_\_\_ the Harbour Bridge while I'm there.  
8. check out

**Kate:** Wow. I really want to go to Australia too.

**David:** Why don't you join me? Say you \_\_\_\_\_ !  
9. come

**Kate:** Really? Okay! Maybe I \_\_\_\_\_ with you!  
10. go

#### B. Pair Work 1

Read the dialogue aloud with a partner.  
Change the verbs into contractions (the short form) whenever possible. Remember to pronounce "going to" as "gonna."

#### C. Pair Work 2

Now choose any place in the world and imagine you are going there. Where will you go? What are you going to do while you're there? Discuss your travel plans with a partner.

## Exercise 10: Future Time Clauses

### WILL & BE GOING TO

#### Did You Know?

In future sentences with two clauses, both *will* and *be going to* are correct in the independent clause. *Will* is formal and *be going to* is casual. Try using both forms in this exercise.

#### Did You Remember?

You must use the simple future tense in the independent clause and the simple present tense in a dependent clause. Dependent clauses begin with words such as *when*, *before*, *after*, *as soon as*, and *until*.

#### Did You Remember?

If a sentence begins with a dependent clause, it must be followed by a comma.

Complete the following sentences with the correct future form of the verb provided. Underline the dependent clause in each sentence.

Ex. She will eat before she leaves for work.  
(eat) (leave)

- I'm going to eat lunch at 12:30. After I \_\_\_\_\_ lunch, I \_\_\_\_\_ a nap.  
(eat) (take)
- As soon as it \_\_\_\_\_ raining, I \_\_\_\_\_ to the store.  
(stop) (walk)
- I \_\_\_\_\_ you this book as soon as I \_\_\_\_\_ it.  
(lend) (finish)
- He \_\_\_\_\_ this letter before he \_\_\_\_\_ stamps.  
(finish) (buy)
- When the class \_\_\_\_\_ over, Marilyn \_\_\_\_\_ shopping.  
(be) (go)
- They \_\_\_\_\_ many museums when they \_\_\_\_\_ to Europe.  
(visit) (go)
- When the chairman \_\_\_\_\_, everyone \_\_\_\_\_ down.  
(arrive) (sit)
- After they \_\_\_\_\_ their homework, they \_\_\_\_\_ TV.  
(do) (watch)

## Exercise 10: Future Time Clauses cont.

9. She \_\_\_\_\_ a hot bath as soon as she \_\_\_\_\_ home.  
(take) (get)

10. I \_\_\_\_\_ you back the money I borrowed as soon as I \_\_\_\_\_ my paycheck.  
(pay) (get)

11. He \_\_\_\_\_ home until he \_\_\_\_\_ better.  
(stay) (feel)

12. We \_\_\_\_\_ birthday cake after we \_\_\_\_\_ dinner.  
(have) (finish)

13. As soon as she \_\_\_\_\_ here, we \_\_\_\_\_ dinner.  
(get) (eat)

14. She \_\_\_\_\_ the clothes after she \_\_\_\_\_ them.  
(iron) (wash)

15. I \_\_\_\_\_ you until I \_\_\_\_\_ .  
(love) (die)

16. I \_\_\_\_\_ for a new passport before I \_\_\_\_\_ a ticket.  
(apply) (buy)

## Exercise 11: Multiple Choice

### WILL, BE GOING TO & PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

Circle the correct answer.

- The girl \_\_\_\_\_ to the mall after school.
  - is going to go
  - will goes
  - is going to going
- My grandparents \_\_\_\_\_ us next weekend.
  - will visiting
  - are visiting
  - are going to visit
- She \_\_\_\_\_ her dog to the vet today.
  - will taking
  - will take
  - will takes
- I \_\_\_\_\_ for Disneyland in three days.
  - are leaving
  - is leaving
  - am leaving
- He will go sightseeing when he \_\_\_\_\_ in Thailand.
  - will arrives
  - arrives
  - is going to arrive
- There \_\_\_\_\_ a test on Friday.
  - is being
  - is being to be
  - will be
- The kids \_\_\_\_\_ well after all that physical activity.
  - are going to sleep
  - is going to sleep
  - am going to sleep
- They \_\_\_\_\_ their lunch because they aren't hungry.
  - won't eat
  - will eat not
  - is not eating
- \_\_\_\_\_ join the game?
  - Are you
  - Are you going
  - Are you going to
- When we \_\_\_\_\_ to a new city next month, we will meet new people.
  - will move
  - move
  - are move

## Exercise 12: Find Someone Who

### WILL, BE GOING TO & PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

Interview your classmates. Walk around the class and find someone...

#	Find someone...	Classmate's name
1	who is going to visit a friend tonight.	
2	who will probably leave the city this weekend.	
3	who isn't going to watch TV tonight.	
4	who's going to walk home from school today.	
5	who is getting a hair cut this week.	
6	who won't have a birthday next month.	
7	who thinks it'll be a nice day tomorrow.	
8	who is going to buy a present for someone this week.	
9	who's buying groceries after school today.	
10	who will have something to eat as soon as the class finishes.	