

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

	Will + base verb	Be going to + base verb	Be + -ing verb (present progressive)
Use	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>
Notes	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)
Example Statement	Yes, I will go to the movies with you tonight.	He is going to study all weekend for his test.	She is giving her presentation tomorrow.
Example Negative	No, I will not be ready to go at 5:00.	They are not going to go to the party because they have school tomorrow.	We are not leaving until we get an answer.
Example Question	Will you call me later?	Is she going to read that entire book tonight?	Are they coming 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 1: Fill in the Blanks cont.

B. Short Form

Now try using contractions.

Use *'ll* instead of *will* and *won't* instead of *will not*.

1. My friend _____ *won't go* _____ to the doctor's next week because she is feeling better.
(go, not)
2. I _____ some coffee, please.
(have)
3. He _____ video games after school.
(play)
4. The children _____ books that are too difficult.
(read, not)
5. We _____ dinner at 7:00 pm.
(eat)
6. I _____ for my test tonight because I'm sick.
(study, not)
7. She _____ the guitar on Saturday morning.
(practise)
8. She _____ the flowers in a few minutes.
(water)

Did You Know?

The abbreviation *'ll* is common with pronouns (*I'll, you'll, he'll, she'll, it'll, we'll, they'll*). The abbreviation *won't* is common with all pronouns and nouns.

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.	