

When *will* we arrive at the airport, Dad?



Video  
Future with *will*



Video  
The present continuous, be going to and *will*

Aunt May *is meeting* us at the airport later today. I'll *call* and let her know our situation.

Oh no! Our plane *takes off* at 4.45 p.m. It's 4 p.m. already. We're *going to miss* our flight!

## 1 The simple future (*will, shall*)

You can refer back to **Book 1 Unit 16** for more information.

### 1.1 We use the simple future to:

- talk about what we think is likely to happen in the future  
*Don't worry. I think you **will pass** the exam.*
- mention a decision we make at the time of speaking (without planning it)  
*Oh, we **don't have enough flour** to make pancakes.  
**I'll buy** some at the supermarket.*

### 1.2 We can also use *shall* with *I* and *shall we* to talk about the future. However, it is much more common to use *will* nowadays as *shall* is very formal.

*I **will / shall be** away on a business trip next week.*

However, we often use *shall I / shall we* to make offers, make suggestions or ask for decisions.

***Shall I turn on** the fan for you?  
**Shall we go** to the beach tomorrow?  
What **shall I do**?*

You could point out that both *be going to* and *will* are used to talk about the future, though we usually prefer *will to be going to* in formal writing. In many cases, we can use either structure, e.g. *What's the weather report for tomorrow? **It'll be sunny. I **it's going to be sunny.*****

## 2 Be going to

We also use *be going to* to talk about the future. We use it to:

- talk about something that we are sure will happen, either soon or later (based on the evidence we can see now)  
*Help! **I'm going to fall!***
- mention a plan or decision that we have already made (usually with the time stated)  
***I'm going to see** a film with Alison **tonight.**  
To get better results, Tom **is going to study** harder **next term.***



### 3 The present continuous

- 3.1 We can also use the present continuous to talk about definite plans in the near future. It is very similar to *be going to*. We can usually use either of them.

We *are having* a barbecue **tomorrow**.

We *are going to have* a barbecue **tomorrow**.



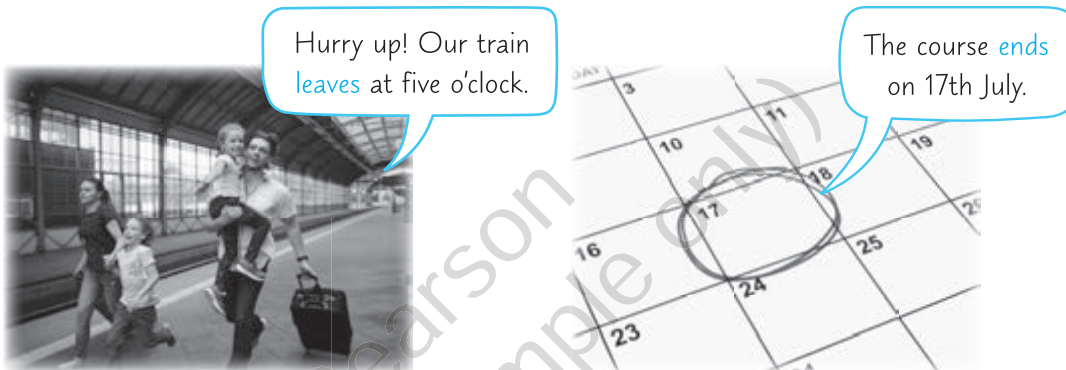
- 3.2 However, we cannot use the present continuous to make predictions as we do with *be going to*.

Look at the sky! *It's going to rain*. Let's go home now.

(~~X~~ Look at the sky! *It's raining*. Let's go home now.)

### 4 The simple present

We can use the simple present to talk about fixed events in the future that are part of a timetable, schedule or programme. We often use it with times and dates.



## Let's compare!



	<i>Will</i>	<i>Be going to</i>
Prediction	We think something is likely to happen in the future (e.g. based on our personal opinion). <i>I think it'll rain tomorrow.</i>	We are sure something will happen in the future (e.g. based on the evidence we can see now). <i>Oh, look! It's going to rain!</i>
Decision	We make the decision at the time of speaking. <i>Roy: My computer isn't working.</i> <i>Ann: I think Tim may be able to help you.</i> <i>Roy: OK, I'll call and ask him then.</i>	We have made the decision or plan earlier. <i>I'm going to call Tim later tonight. Do you have anything to say to him?</i>

# Let's practise

## Exercise 1

Exercise 1 provides contextualised practice of the simple future.

Jess is chatting with Alice. Complete their text messages using the correct simple future form of the verbs given. Use the negative form where necessary.

Two verbs can be used more than once.

- be
- come
- enjoy
- have
- rain
- take
- tell

**Alice** online

Hi, Alice. What are you doing?

Nothing — but I have a problem, Jess! My cousin from Canada is here, but I need to discuss a project with my classmates today, and I don't want her to stay at home. She <sup>(1)</sup> will be bored. Any ideas?

Of course! I'm free today. I <sup>(2)</sup> will/'ll take her to the Big Buddha and Tai O. I think she <sup>(3)</sup> will/'ll enjoy Lantau.

That's great! But what about the weather? There are some dark clouds in the sky.

Don't worry — it <sup>(4)</sup> will not/won't rain! The clouds are going away from us. It <sup>(5)</sup> will/'ll be fine later.

I don't want this to be any trouble to you.

It <sup>(6)</sup> will not/won't be! Listen, I <sup>(7)</sup> will/'ll come to your place to meet your cousin at noon, and we <sup>(8)</sup> will/'ll take the MTR to Tung Chung. We <sup>(9)</sup> will/'ll have a good time!

Thanks, Jess. I <sup>(10)</sup> will/'ll tell my cousin now.



## Exercise 2

Tom is writing an email to Danny. Help him complete the email using the correct form of the words in brackets. Use 'will' or 'be going to'.

(Accept any reasonable answers.)

Exercise 2 provides contextualised practice of *will* and *be going to*.

**From:** Tom Wang  
**To:** Danny Moore  
**Subject:** Dragon Boat Festival

Hi Danny

The Dragon Boat Festival is this Saturday. It's time for dragon boat racing!

(1) Are you going to come (you / come) to the Dragon Boat Races in Sha Tin? I (2) am going to / will be (be) in one of the teams! It's my first time! I think we (3) won't win / aren't going to win (not / win), because we aren't good enough, but I'm sure we (4) are going to / will have (have) lots of fun! We (5) are going to / will have (have) training tomorrow afternoon at three. Would you like to come and see us?

Some of my relatives from the mainland (6) are going to watch (watch) me, but they (7) aren't going to support (not / support) my team because their village is going to enter its own team. In fact, there are going to be several teams from the mainland, and most of them are very good. One of them (8) is going to win (win)! I'm pretty sure about that.

Please come, but remember to bring a hat — it (9) is going to be / will be (be) hot! It's OK if you can't make it. I (10) will / 'll tell (tell) you about the races later. I (11) will / 'll also send (also / send) you the photos we take on that day.

Tom



### Exercise 3

Exercise 3 provides contextualised practice of using the present continuous to talk about the future.

Vicky is writing an email to her cousin. Help her complete the email using the correct present continuous form of the verbs in the word box. Some verbs can be used more than once. Use the negative form where necessary. Use the information in her diary to help you.

catch	do	drive	go	have
meet	see	return	stay	treat

<p>2 <b>Sunday</b> Family lunch at Pedro's Getting a lift from Uncle Mike!</p> <p>3 <b>Monday</b> Jen at Repulse Bay</p> <p>4 <b>Tuesday</b> Dentist 😞</p>	<p>5 <b>Wednesday</b> Getting a treat from Grace!</p> <p>6 <b>Thursday</b> One night in Tong Fuk</p> <p>7 <b>Friday</b> Back to Central</p> <p>8 <b>Saturday</b> Cathy at Yau Ma Tei</p>
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**From:** Vicky O'Hara

**To:** Jason Curtis

**Subject:** My schedule

Hi Jason

How are you?

I'm going to be very busy next week. On Sunday, We <sup>(1)</sup> are having a family lunch at Pedro's. Uncle Mike <sup>(2)</sup> is driving us there in his new car! Then, on Monday, I <sup>(3)</sup> am/'m meeting Jen at Repulse Bay. I <sup>(4)</sup> am/'m going swimming. Jen <sup>(5)</sup> is not/isn't going swimming though. She's scared of water! On Tuesday, I <sup>(6)</sup> am/'m seeing the dentist at 11 a.m. Ugh! Wednesday is better. Grace <sup>(7)</sup> is treating me to dinner. The next day, Jane and I <sup>(8)</sup> are catching the nine o'clock ferry to Lantau Island. We <sup>(9)</sup> are/'re staying overnight in Tong Fuk. We <sup>(10)</sup> are/'re returning to Central on Friday afternoon. Finally, on Saturday, Cathy <sup>(11)</sup> is meeting me at Yau Ma Tei. However, we <sup>(12)</sup> are not/aren't going to the cinema. She doesn't like films! What about you? <sup>(13)</sup> Are you doing anything interesting next week?

Vicky

## Exercise 4

Ken is chatting to Stan. Complete their conversation using the correct simple present form of the verbs given. Some verbs can be used more than once.



6 p.m.	Football
8 p.m.	News
8.15 p.m.	FILM Spider-Man 2
10.35 p.m.	Elephants of Africa

Exercise 4 provides contextualised practice of using the simple present to talk about the future.

**Ken:** (1) Is there anything good on TV tonight, Stan?

**Stan:** Yes, there (2) is. There's football, *Spider-Man 2* and a programme about elephants.

**Ken:** What time (3) does the football match start?

**Stan:** At six o'clock, and it (4) finishes at eight o'clock.

**Ken:** (5) Does *Spider-Man 2* start after that?

**Stan:** No, it (6) doesn't. The news (7) is next. *Spider-Man 2* (8) starts/is at eight fifteen.

**Ken:** OK. Oh, by the way, when is your sister Patsy coming back from her holiday?

**Stan:** Actually her plane (9) leaves London today. It (10) takes off at eight o'clock at night and then (11) arrives sometime tomorrow afternoon.

**Ken:** I see. Well, I'm free all day today. What do you want to do?

**Stan:** Let's go to the new Japanese restaurant for lunch and then see a film. I think the restaurant (12) opens at eleven.

**Ken:** No, it doesn't. Today is Thursday. It (13) opens an hour later.

- arrive
- be
- finish
- leave
- open
- start
- take off



## Challenge yourself

### Exercise 5

Exercise 5 provides contextualised practice of using different tenses to talk about the future.

Steve is chatting with Jenny. Complete their conversation using the correct form of the words in brackets. (Accept any reasonable answers.)

Steve: (1) Are you going to sign up (you/sign up) for a summer course at the community centre, Jenny?

Jenny: I think so, but I'm not sure what course I (2) will/'ll take (take) this summer. How about you, Steve?

Steve: I (3) am going to learn (learn) about photography. My family (4) is travelling/will travel/ is going to travel (travel) to the mountains in October and I'm planning to take lots of pictures! That's why I signed up for the photography course several weeks ago.

Jenny: Great! Maybe I (5) will/'ll sign up (sign up) for that course too! When (6) does/will it start (it/start)?

Steve: There's just one photography course this summer. It's a one-month course that (7) goes/will go (go) from 10th July to 10th August. There are two lessons per week.

Jenny: Oh. I know I (8) will not/won't be (not/be) ready to take a class that soon. I think I'll participate in some type of art class a little later.

Steve: Well, I think you (9) will/'ll need (need) to sign up soon. At this moment, many of the classes (10) will not/won't have (not/have) any more spaces left. I (11) will/'ll go (go) online now and see what might still be available. Hmm ... There's a Chinese calligraphy class.

Jenny: Great! When (12) are they going to/will they/do they offer (they/offer) that class?

Steve: In August. The course (13) lasts/will last/is going to last (last) for the whole month of August, from the 1st to the 31st.

Jenny: Oh ... That (14) isn't going to/won't work (not/work) for me. I'll need to prepare for school during the last week of the summer holidays.

(15) Are they going to/Will they/Do they offer (they/offer) any courses that end in mid-August?

Steve: Well ... There (16) is/will be/is going to be (be) a time management class from 20th July to 16th August.

Jenny: Hmm ... I think I (17) will/'ll decide (decide) a little later then.

Steve: Don't wait too long!

## Exercise 6

Helen is writing in her blog. Read the blog entry. Are the highlighted words used correctly? If yes, put a tick (✓). If not, write the correct answers in the spaces provided.

Exercise 6 provides contextualised practice of using different tenses to talk about the future as well as tenses taught previously.

# Travel to Taiwan blog

(1) I'm going to travel to Taiwan next week with my parents. (2) I'm thinking we'll have a really interesting holiday. (3) I'm going to be so excited!

(4) We spend five days there. (5) We'll decide to stay in Taipei and take day trips from there. By staying in one place, (6) we'll have the chance to see lots of local sights. According to the local weather forecast, it (7) isn't raining next week. Hooray!

One of the first things (8) we've done is going to the Taipei 101 building. From the top of that tall building, I think (9) we'll figure out where things are located in the city.

While in Taipei, we're planning to visit a few night markets. (10) We're also going to eat at a famous restaurant that serves dumplings. (That restaurant gets a great rating so I know (11) we love the food!)

(12) We were visiting the park just north of the city too. Very likely my mum (13) is relaxing at the hot springs while my dad and I go hiking. Later, (14) we're taking a train and bus to visit a place called Taroko Gorge near the east coast. (15) It's having amazing mountains, waterfalls and caves. I think that place will be the highlight of our trip. (The train (16) has left Taipei at 6 o'clock that morning. That's early but I think it'll be worth it.)

A friend of ours (17) visited Taiwan several times. We're going to meet him next week. Maybe our plans (18) is going to change after we talk to him!

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ ✓
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ I think
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ I'm
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ We're going to spend/We'll spend
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ We've decided
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ ✓
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ won't rain/isn't going to rain
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_ we're going to do/we'll do
- 9 \_\_\_\_\_ ✓
- 10 \_\_\_\_\_ ✓
- 11 \_\_\_\_\_ we're going to love/we'll love
- 12 \_\_\_\_\_ We're visiting/We're going to visit/ We'll visit
- 13 \_\_\_\_\_ will relax/is going to relax
- 14 \_\_\_\_\_ ✓
- 15 \_\_\_\_\_ It has
- 16 \_\_\_\_\_ leaves/will leave/is going to leave
- 17 \_\_\_\_\_ has visited
- 18 \_\_\_\_\_ will change



## Exercise 7

Exercise 7 provides roundup practice of the language students have learnt in this unit as well as previously taught content.

Wilson got a leaflet about a games expo. Complete the leaflet. Choose the best word(s) to complete each blank and circle the correct letter.

# Pacific Games Expo

\_\_\_(1)\_\_\_ playing games? If you do, you \_\_\_(2)\_\_\_ to miss one of the most popular events of the year. Plan to attend the Pacific Games Expo at Coastal Exhibition Centre. The expo \_\_\_(3)\_\_\_ on three days in September or October every year. Over 100,000 people \_\_\_(4)\_\_\_ last year's expo. The coming show \_\_\_(5)\_\_\_ from Saturday 12th to Monday 14th.

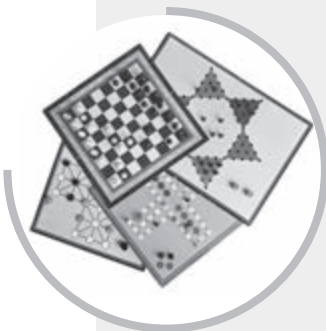
This year's Games Expo \_\_\_(6)\_\_\_ bigger than ever with hundreds of exhibits! \_\_\_(7)\_\_\_ excited about going now?

## What types of games \_\_\_(8)\_\_\_ in the future?

You \_\_\_(9)\_\_\_ in the *What's Next?* section which is always the most popular part of the Games Expo. You will see the games that \_\_\_(10)\_\_\_ in stores soon! Organisers will be showing an electronic game called *Voyage through Time*. Reports already say it \_\_\_(11)\_\_\_ like a winner! However, we think you \_\_\_(12)\_\_\_ lots of patience if you want to try out this game — you \_\_\_(13)\_\_\_ stand in long lines to get your turn!



## Are there games for everyone at the Games Expo?



Yes! We know that not everyone \_\_\_(14)\_\_\_ to hear about the latest electronics games. You \_\_\_(15)\_\_\_ the chance to check out classic board games in the *Back to the Past* section.

The *One More Game* section \_\_\_(16)\_\_\_ newer board games. The Games Expo organisers \_\_\_(17)\_\_\_ that you can find games for children, families, science fiction fans and everyone else on your shopping list! You \_\_\_(18)\_\_\_ disappointed with the selection.



\_\_\_(19)\_\_\_ your own idea for a game? You can also meet with game designers at the Games Expo!

- 1 **A** Are you liking  
**B** Are you going to like  
**C** Do you like
- 2 **A** didn't want  
**B** won't want  
**C** have wanted
- 3 **A** is held  
**B** is holding  
**C** is going to be held
- 4 **A** attended  
**B** were attending  
**C** has attended
- 5 **A** is  
**B** will  
**C** has been
- 6 **A** will  
**B** has been  
**C** is going to be
- 7 **A** Were you  
**B** Are you getting  
**C** Will you get
- 8 **A** do people play  
**B** will people play  
**C** people will play
- 9 **A** will find out  
**B** is going to find out  
**C** are finding out
- 10 **A** are  
**B** are being  
**C** are going to be
- 11 **A** looks  
**B** is looking  
**C** looked
- 12 **A** are needing  
**B** will need  
**C** needed
- 13 **A** are probably having to  
**B** will probably have to  
**C** are probably going to have to
- 14 **A** wants  
**B** is wanting  
**C** is going to want
- 15 **A** are having  
**B** have had  
**C** will have
- 16 **A** displayed  
**B** will display  
**C** have displayed
- 17 **A** are making sure  
**B** have made sure  
**C** are going to make sure
- 18 **A** weren't  
**B** won't be  
**C** are going to be
- 19 **A** Are you ever having  
**B** Are you going to have  
**C** Have you ever had