

Present tenses (**I am doing / I do**) for the future

A

Present continuous (**I am doing**) with a future meaning

This is Ben's diary for next week.

He **is playing** tennis on Monday afternoon.He **is going** to the dentist on Tuesday morning.He **is having** dinner with Kate on Friday.

In all these examples, Ben has already decided and arranged to do these things.

I'm doing something (tomorrow) = I have already decided and arranged to do it:

- ☐ A: What **are you doing** on Saturday evening? (*not* What do you do)
- ☐ B: I'm **going** to the theatre. (*not* I go)
- ☐ A: What time **is** Katherine **arriving** tomorrow?
- ☐ B: Half past ten. I'm **meeting** her at the station.
- ☐ I'm **not working** tomorrow, so we can go out somewhere.
- ☐ Steve **isn't playing** football next Saturday. He's hurt his leg.

'I'm going to (do)' is also possible in these sentences:

- ☐ What **are you going to do** on Saturday evening?

But the present continuous is more natural when we talk about arrangements. See Unit 20B.

Do not use **will** to talk about what you have arranged to do:

- ☐ What **are you doing** this evening? (*not* What will you do)
- ☐ Alex **is getting** married next month. (*not* will get)

You can also use the present continuous for an action *just before you begin to do it*. This happens especially with verbs of movement (**go/come/leave** etc.):

- ☐ I'm tired. I'm **going** to bed now. Goodnight. (*not* I go to bed now)
- ☐ 'Jess, are you ready yet?' 'Yes, I'm **coming**.' (*not* I come)

B

Present simple (**I do**) with a future meaning

We use the present simple when we talk about timetables, programmes etc. (for public transport, cinemas etc.):

- ☐ My train **leaves** at 11.30, so I need to be at the station by 11.15.
- ☐ What time **does** the film **start** this evening?
- ☐ It's Wednesday tomorrow. / Tomorrow **is** Wednesday.

You can use the present simple to talk about people if their plans are fixed like a timetable:

- ☐ I **start** my new job on Monday.
- ☐ What time **do** you **finish** work tomorrow?

But the continuous is more usual for personal arrangements:

- ☐ What time **are you meeting** Ann tomorrow? (*not* do you meet)

Compare:

Present continuous

- ☐ What time **are you arriving**?
- ☐ I'm **going** to the cinema this evening.

Present simple

- ☐ What time **does the train arrive**?
- ☐ **The film starts** at 8.15 (this evening).

Exercises



- 19.1** A friend of yours is planning to go on holiday soon. You ask her about her plans. Use the words in brackets to make your questions.

- 1 (where / go?) *Where are you going?*
- 2 (how long / go for?)
- 3 (when / leave?)
- 4 (go / alone?)
- 5 (travel / by car?)
- 6 (where / stay?)

Scotland.
Ten days.
Next Friday.
No, with a friend.
No, by train.
In a hotel.

- 19.2** Tom wants you to visit him, but you are very busy. Look at your diary for the next few days and explain to him why you can't come.



TOM: Can you come on Monday evening?

YOU: Sorry, but *I'm playing volleyball* (1)

TOM: What about Tuesday evening then?

YOU: No, not Tuesday. I (2)

TOM: And Wednesday evening?

YOU: (3)

TOM: Well, are you free on Thursday?

YOU: I'm afraid not. (4)

- 19.3** Have you arranged to do anything at these times? Write sentences about yourself.

- 1 (this evening) *I'm going out this evening.* or *I'm not doing anything this evening.*
- 2 (tomorrow morning) I
- 3 (tomorrow evening)
- 4 (next Sunday)
- 5 (choose another day or time)

- 19.4** Put the verb into the more suitable form, present continuous or present simple.

- 1 *I'm going* (I / go) to the cinema this evening.
- 2 *Does the film start* (the film / start) at 3.30 or 4.30?
- 3 (we / have) a party next Saturday. Would you like to come?
- 4 The art exhibition (finish) on 3 May.
- 5 (I / not / go) out this evening.
(I / stay) at home.
- 6 '..... (you / do) anything tomorrow morning?' 'No, I'm free. Why?'
- 7 (we / go) to a concert tonight.
(it / start) at 7.30.
- 8 (I / leave) now. I've come to say goodbye.
- 9 A: Have you seen Liz recently?
B: No, but (we / meet) for lunch next week.
- 10 *You are on the train to London and you ask another passenger:*
Excuse me. What time (this train / get) to London?
- 11 *You are talking to Helen:*
Helen, (I / go) to the supermarket. (you / come) with me?
- 12 *You and a friend are watching television. You say:*
I'm bored with this programme. What time (it / end)?
- 13 (I / not / use) the car this evening, so you can have it.
- 14 Sue (come) to see us tomorrow.
(she / travel) by train and her train (arrive) at 10.15.

(I'm) going to (do)

A

I **am going to do** something = I have already decided to do it, I intend to do it:

- ☐ 'Are you **going to eat** anything?' 'No, I'm not hungry.'
- ☐ A: I hear Sarah has won some money. What **is she going to do** with it?
B: She's **going to buy** a new car.
- ☐ I'm just **going to make** a quick phone call. Can you wait for me?
- ☐ This cheese smells horrible. I'm **not going to eat** it.

B

I **am doing** and I **am going to do**

We use **I am doing** (*present continuous*) when we say what we have *arranged* to do – for example, arranged to meet somebody, arranged to go somewhere:

- ☐ What time **are you meeting** Ann this evening?
- ☐ I'm **leaving** tomorrow. I've got my plane ticket.

I **am going to do** something = I've decided to do it (but perhaps not *arranged* to do it):

- ☐ 'Your shoes are dirty.' 'Yes, I know. I'm **going to clean** them.' (= I've decided to clean them, but I haven't *arranged* to clean them)
- ☐ I've decided not to stay here any longer. Tomorrow I'm **going to look** for somewhere else to stay.

Often the difference is very small and either form is possible.

C

You can also say that 'something **is going to happen**' in the future. For example:



The man isn't looking where he is going.

He **is going to walk** into the wall.

When we say that 'something **is going to happen**', the situation *now* makes this clear. The man is walking towards the wall now, so we can see that he **is going to walk** into it.



situation now

going to



future happening

Some more examples:

- ☐ Look at those black clouds! It's **going to rain**. (the clouds are there now)
- ☐ I feel terrible. I think I'm **going to be sick**. (I feel terrible now)
- ☐ The economic situation is bad now and things **are going to get worse**.

D

I **was going to do** something = I intended to do it, but didn't do it:

- ☐ We **were going to travel** by train, but then we decided to go by car instead.
- ☐ Peter **was going to do** the exam, but he changed his mind.
- ☐ I **was just going to cross** the road when somebody shouted 'Stop!'

You can say that 'something **was going to happen**' (but didn't happen):

- ☐ I thought it **was going to rain**, but it didn't.

Exercises

20.1 Write a question with **going to** for each situation.

- 1 Your friend has won some money. You ask:
(what / do with it?) What are you going to do with it?
- 2 Your friend is going to a party tonight. You ask:
(what / wear?) _____
- 3 Your friend has just bought a new table. You ask:
(where / put it?) _____
- 4 Your friend has decided to have a party. You ask:
(who / invite?) _____

20.2 Read the situations and complete the dialogues. Use **going to**.

- 1 You have decided to clean your room this morning.
FRIEND: Are you going out this morning?
YOU: No, I'm going to clean my room.
- 2 You bought a sweater, but it doesn't fit you very well. You have decided to take it back to the shop.
FRIEND: That sweater is too big for you.
YOU: I know. _____
- 3 You have been offered a job, but you have decided not to accept it.
FRIEND: I hear you've been offered a job.
YOU: That's right, but _____
- 4 You have to phone Sarah. It's morning now, and you have decided to phone her tonight.
FRIEND: Have you phoned Sarah yet?
YOU: No, _____
- 5 You are in a restaurant. The food is awful and you've decided to complain.
FRIEND: This food is awful, isn't it?
YOU: Yes, it's disgusting. _____

20.3 What is going to happen in these situations? Use the words in brackets.

- 1 There are a lot of black clouds in the sky.
(rain) It's going to rain.
- 2 It is 8.30. Tom is leaving his house. He has to be at work at 8.45, but the journey takes 30 minutes.
(late) He _____
- 3 There is a hole in the bottom of the boat. A lot of water is coming in through the hole.
(sink) The boat _____
- 4 Lucy and Chris are driving. There is very little petrol left in the tank. The nearest petrol station is a long way away.
(run out) They _____

20.4 Complete the sentences with **was/were going to** + the following verbs:

buy give up phone play say ~~travel~~

- 1 We were going to travel by train, but then we decided to go by car instead.
- 2 I _____ some new clothes yesterday, but I was very busy and didn't have time to go to the shops.
- 3 Oliver and I _____ tennis last week, but he had to cancel because he'd hurt his knee.
- 4 I _____ Jane, but I decided to email her instead.
- 5 A: When I last saw Tim, he _____ his job.
B: That's right, but in the end he decided to stay where he was.
- 6 I'm sorry I interrupted you. What _____ you _____ ?

Will/shall 1

A

We use **I'll** (= **I will**) when we've just decided to do something. When we say 'I'll do something', we announce our decision:

- ☐ Oh, I've left the door open. **I'll go** and shut it.
- ☐ 'What would you like to drink?' 'I'll **have** an orange juice, please.'
- ☐ 'Did you phone Lucy?' 'Oh no, I forgot. I'll **phone** her now.'

You cannot use the *present simple* (**I do / I go** etc.) in these sentences:

- ☐ **I'll go** and shut the door. (*not I go and shut*)

We often use **I think I'll ...** and **I don't think I'll ...**:

- ☐ I feel a bit hungry. **I think I'll have** something to eat.
- ☐ **I don't think I'll go** out tonight. I'm too tired.

In spoken English the negative of **will** is usually **won't** (= **will not**):

- ☐ I can see you're busy, so **I won't stay** long.

B

Do *not* use **will** to talk about what you decided before (see Units 19–20):

- ☐ **I'm going** on holiday next Saturday. (*not I'll go*)
- ☐ **Are you working** tomorrow? (*not Will you work*)

C

We often use **will** in these situations:

Offering to do something

- ☐ That bag looks heavy. **I'll help** you with it. (*not I help*)

Agreeing to do something

- ☐ A: Can you give Tim this book?
- ☐ B: Sure, **I'll give** it to him when I see him this afternoon.

Promising to do something

- ☐ Thanks for lending me the money. **I'll pay** you back on Friday.
- ☐ **I won't tell** anyone what happened. I promise.

Asking somebody to do something (Will you ... ?)

- ☐ **Will you** please turn the music down? I'm trying to concentrate.

You can use **won't** to say that somebody refuses to do something:

- ☐ I've tried to give her advice, but she **won't listen**.
- ☐ The car **won't start**. (= the car 'refuses' to start)



D

Shall I ... ? Shall we ... ?

Shall is used mostly in the questions **shall I ... ? / shall we ... ?**

We use **shall I ... ? / shall we ... ?** to ask somebody's opinion (especially in offers or suggestions):

- ☐ **Shall I** open the window? (= Do you want me to open the window?)
- ☐ I've got no money. What **shall I** do? (= What do you suggest?)
- ☐ '**Shall we** go?' 'Just a minute. I'm not ready yet.'
- ☐ 'Where **shall we** have lunch?' 'Let's go to Marino's.'

Compare **shall I ... ?** and **will you ... ?**:

- ☐ **Shall I** shut the door? (= Do you want me to shut it?)
- ☐ **Will you** shut the door? (= I want you to shut it)

Exercises

21.1 Complete the sentences with **I'll** + a suitable verb.

- I'm too tired to walk home. I think I'll take a taxi.
- 'It's cold in this room.' 'Is it?' on the heating then.'
- 'Bye! Have a nice holiday!' 'Thanks. you a postcard.'
- 'Shall I do the washing-up?' 'No, it's all right. it later.'
- 'I don't know how to shut down this computer.' 'OK, you.'
- 'Would you like tea or coffee?' '..... coffee, please.'
- 'Are you coming with us?' 'No, I think here.'
- Thanks for lending me the money. it back as soon as possible, OK?
- A: I know you're busy, but can you finish this report this afternoon?
B: Well,, but I can't promise.

21.2 Read the situations and write sentences with **I think I'll ...** or **I don't think I'll ...**.

- It's a bit cold. The window is open and you decide to close it. You say:
I think I'll close the window.
- You are feeling tired and it's getting late. You decide to go to bed. You say:
I think
- A friend of yours offers you a lift in his car, but you decide to walk. You say:
Thank you, but
- You were going to have lunch. Now you decide that you don't want to eat anything. You say:
I don't think
- You planned to go swimming. Now you decide that you don't want to go. You say:
.....

21.3 Which is correct? (If necessary, study Units 19–20 first.)

- 'Did you phone Lucy?' 'Oh no, I forgot. I phone / I'll phone her now.' (I'll phone is correct)
- I can't meet you tomorrow. I'm playing / I'll play tennis. (I'm playing is correct)
- 'I meet / I'll meet you outside the hotel in half an hour, OK?' 'Yes, that's fine.'
- 'I need some money.' 'OK, I'm lending / I'll lend you some. How much do you need?'
- I'm having / I'll have a party next Saturday. I hope you can come.
- 'Remember to get a newspaper when you go out.' 'OK, I don't forget / I won't forget.'
- What time does your train leave / will your train leave tomorrow?
- I asked Sue what happened, but she doesn't tell / won't tell me.
- 'Are you doing / Will you do anything tomorrow evening?' 'No, I'm free. Why?'
- I don't want to go out alone. Do you come / Will you come with me?

21.4 What do you say in these situations? Write sentences with **shall I ... ?** or **shall we ... ?**

- You and a friend want to do something this evening, but you don't know what.
You ask your friend: What shall we do this evening?
- You try on a jacket in a shop. You are not sure whether to buy it or not.
You ask a friend for advice: it?
- It's Helen's birthday next week. You want to give her a present, but you don't know what.
You ask a friend for advice:
What
- You and a friend are going on holiday together, but you have to decide where.
You ask him/her:
- You and a friend are going out. You have to decide whether to go by car or to walk.
You ask him/her: or
- Your friend wants you to come and see her. You don't know what time to come.
You ask her:

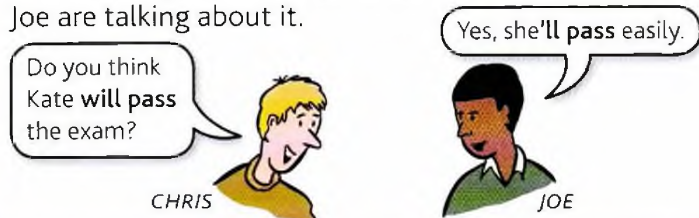
A

We do not use **will** to say what somebody has already arranged or decided to do:

- ☐ Diane **is working** next week. (*not* Diane will work)
 - ☐ **Are you going to watch** anything on TV this evening? (*not* Will you watch)
- For '**is working**' and '**Are you going to ... ?**', see Units 19–20.

But often, when we talk about the future, we are *not* talking about what somebody has decided to do. For example:

Kate is doing an exam next week. Chris and Joe are talking about it.



She'll pass does *not* mean 'she has decided to pass'. Joe is saying what he knows or believes will happen.

He is *predicting* the future.

When we predict a future happening or situation, we use **will/won't**.

Some more examples:

- ☐ They've been away a long time. When they return, they'll **find** a lot of changes here.
- ☐ 'Where **will** you **be** this time next year?' 'I'll **be** in Japan.'
- ☐ That plate is hot. If you touch it, you'll **burn** yourself.
- ☐ Tom **won't pass** the exam. He hasn't studied hard enough.
- ☐ Anna looks completely different now. You **won't recognise** her.
- ☐ When **will** you **get** your exam results?

B

We often use **will ('ll)** with:

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| probably | <input type="checkbox"/> I'll probably be home late tonight. |
| (I'm) sure | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't worry about the exam. I'm sure you'll pass. |
| (I) think | <input type="checkbox"/> Do you think Sarah will like the present we bought her? |
| (I) don't think | <input type="checkbox"/> I don't think the exam will be very difficult. |
| I wonder | <input type="checkbox"/> I wonder what will happen. |

After **I hope**, we generally use the present (**will** is also possible):

- ☐ I hope Kate **passes** the exam. (*or* I hope Kate **will pass** ...)
- ☐ I hope it **doesn't rain** tomorrow.

C

Generally we use **will** to talk about *the future*, but sometimes we use **will** to talk about *now*. For example:

- ☐ Don't phone Ann now. She'll **be** busy. (= she'll be busy *now*)

D

I shall ... / we shall ...

Normally we use **shall** only with **I** and **we**. You can say:

I shall or I will ('ll) **we shall or we will (we'll)**

- ☐ I **shall** be late this evening. (*or* I **will** be)
- ☐ **We shall** probably go to France in June. (*or* **We will** probably go)

In spoken English we normally use **I'll** and **we'll**:

- ☐ **We'll** probably go to France.

The negative of **shall** is **shall not** or **shan't**:

- ☐ I **shan't** be here tomorrow. (*or* I **won't** be)

Do not use **shall** with **he/she/it/you/they**:

- ☐ She **will** be very angry. (*not* She shall be)

Exercises

22.1 Which form of the verb is better in these sentences? The verbs are underlined.

- 1 Diane isn't free on Saturday. She'll work / She's working. (*She's working is correct*)
- 2 I'll go / I'm going to a party tomorrow night. Would you like to come too?
- 3 I think Amy will get / is getting the job. She has a lot of experience.
- 4 I can't meet you this evening. A friend of mine will come / is coming to see me.
- 5 A: Have you decided where to go for your holidays?
B: Yes, we'll go / we're going to Italy.
- 6 Don't be afraid of the dog. It won't hurt / It isn't hurting you.

22.2 Put in **will ('ll)** or **won't**.

- 1 Can you wait for me? I won't be long.
- 2 Don't ask Amanda for advice. She will know what to do.
- 3 I'm glad you're coming to see us next week. It will be good to see you again.
- 4 I'm sorry about what happened yesterday. It will happen again.
- 5 You don't need to take an umbrella with you. I don't think it will rain.
- 6 I've got some incredible news! You will believe it.

22.3 Complete the sentences using **will ('ll)**. Choose from the following:

it / be	she / come	you / get	you / like
people / live	it / look	we / meet	you / pass

- 1 Don't worry about your exam. I'm sure you'll pass.
- 2 Why don't you try on this jacket? It will be nice on you.
- 3 You must meet Daniel sometime. I think he will meet him.
- 4 It's raining. Don't go out. It will be wet.
- 5 Do you think it will be longer in the future?
- 6 Bye! I'm sure we will meet again before long.
- 7 I've invited Anna to the party, but I don't think she will come.
- 8 It takes me an hour to get to work at the moment, but when the new road is finished, it will be much quicker.

22.4 Write questions using **do you think ... will ... ?** + the following:

be back	cost	end	get married	happen	like	rain
---------	------	-----	-------------	--------	------	------

- 1 I've bought this picture for Karen. Do you think she'll like it? ?
- 2 The weather doesn't look very good. Do you think it will rain? ?
- 3 The meeting is still going on. When do you think it will end? ?
- 4 My car needs to be repaired. How much do you think it will cost? ?
- 5 Sally and David are in love. Do you think they will get married? ?
- 6 'I'm going out now.' 'OK. What time will you be back? ?'
- 7 The future situation is uncertain. What do you think will happen? ?

22.5 Where do you think you will be at these times? Write true sentences about yourself. Use:

I'll be ... or I'll probably be ... or I don't know where I'll be

- 1 (next Monday evening at 7.45) I'll be at home.
or I'll probably be at home.
or I don't know where I'll be.
- 2 (at 5 o'clock tomorrow morning) _____
- 3 (at 10.30 tomorrow morning) _____
- 4 (next Saturday afternoon at 4.15) _____
- 5 (this time next year) _____

I will and I'm going to

A

Future actions

Study the difference between **will** and **(be) going to**:

Sarah is talking to Helen:

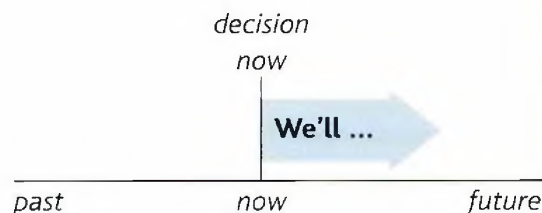
Let's have a party.

That's a great idea.
We'll **invite** lots of people.


SARAH



HELEN

will ('ll): We use **will** to announce a new decision. The party is a new idea.


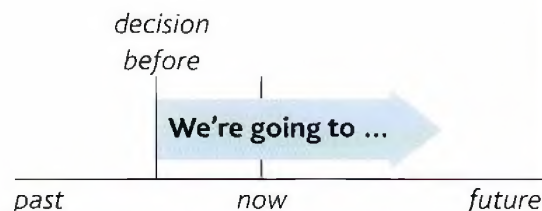
Later that day, Helen meets Dan:

Sarah and I have decided to have a party.
We're **going to invite** lots of people.


HELEN



DAN

(be) going to: We use **(be) going to** when we have *already decided* to do something. Helen had already decided to invite lots of people *before* she spoke to Dan.


Compare:

- ☐ 'Gary phoned while you were out.' 'OK. I'll **call** him back.'
- ☐ 'Gary **phoned** while you were out.' 'Yes, I know. I'm **going to call** him back.'
- ☐ 'Anna is in hospital.' 'Oh really? I didn't know. I'll **go** and visit her.'
- ☐ 'Anna is in hospital.' 'Yes, I know. I'm **going to visit** her this evening.'

B

Future happenings and situations (predicting the future)

We use both **will** and **going to** to predict future happenings and situations. So you can say:

- ☐ I think **the weather will be** nice later. or
I think **the weather is going to be** nice later.
- ☐ Those shoes are well-made. **They'll last** a long time. or
Those shoes are well-made. **They're going to last** a long time.

When we say something **is going to** happen, we know this from the situation *now*. What is happening *now* shows that something **is going to** happen in the future. For example:

- ☐ Look at those black clouds. **It's going to rain.** (not It will rain)
(We can see that it **is going to rain** from the clouds that are in the sky *now*.)
- ☐ I feel terrible. I think I'm **going to be sick.** (not I think I'll be sick)
(I think I'm **going to be sick** because I feel terrible *now*.)

Do not use **will** in this type of situation.

23.1 Complete the sentences using **will ('ll)** or **going to**.

- 1 A: Why are you turning on the TV?
B: I'm going to watch the news. (I / watch)
- 2 A: Oh, I've just realised. I haven't got any money.
B: Haven't you? Well, don't worry. _____ you some. (I / lend)
- 3 A: I've got a headache.
B: Have you? Wait a second and _____ an aspirin for you. (I / get)
- 4 A: Why are you filling that bucket with water?
B: _____ the car. (I / wash)
- 5 A: I've decided to repaint this room.
B: Oh, have you? What colour _____ it? (you / paint)
- 6 A: Where are you going? Are you going shopping?
B: Yes, _____ some things for dinner. (I / buy)
- 7 A: I don't know how to use the washing machine.
B: It's easy. _____ you. (I / show)
- 8 A: What would you like to eat?
B: _____ a pizza, please. (I / have)
- 9 A: Did you call Lisa?
B: Oh, no. I completely forgot. _____ her now. (I / call)
- 10 A: Has Dan decided what to do when he leaves school?
B: Yes. Everything is planned. _____ a holiday for a few weeks.
(he / have) Then _____ a management training course. (he / do)

23.2 Read the situations and complete the sentences using **will ('ll)** or **going to**.

- 1 The phone rings and you answer. Somebody wants to speak to John.
CALLER: Hello. Can I speak to John, please?
YOU: Just a moment. I'll get him. (I / get)
- 2 It's a nice day, so you have decided to take a walk. Just before you go, you tell your friend.
YOU: The weather's too nice to stay in. _____ a walk. (I / take)
FRIEND: Good idea! I think _____ you. (I / join)
- 3 Your friend is worried because she has lost her driving licence.
YOU: Don't worry. I'm sure _____ it. (you / find)
FRIEND: I hope so.
- 4 There was a job advertised in the paper recently. At first you were interested, but then you decided not to apply.
FRIEND: Have you decided what to do about that job you were interested in?
YOU: Yes, _____ for it. (I / not / apply)
- 5 You and a friend are stuck in traffic. You have to be in a meeting in five minutes and you need at least another 20 minutes to get there.
YOU: The meeting begins in five minutes. _____. (we / be late)
- 6 Ann and Sam are staying at a hotel. Their room is in very bad condition, especially the ceiling.
ANN: The ceiling doesn't look very safe, does it?
SAM: No, it looks as if _____. (it / fall down)
- 7 Paul has to go to the airport to catch a plane tomorrow morning.
PAUL: Kate, I need somebody to take me to the airport tomorrow morning.
KATE: That's no problem. _____ you. (I / take) What time is your flight?
PAUL: 10.30.
KATE: OK, _____ you up at your house at about 8 o'clock then. (I / pick)
Later that day, Joe offers to take Paul to the airport.
JOE: Paul, do you want me to take you to the airport?
PAUL: No thanks, Joe. _____ me. (Kate / take)

Will be doing and will have done

A

Study this example situation:

These people are standing in a queue to get into the cinema.



now

Half an hour from now, the cinema will be full.
Everyone **will be watching** the film.



half an hour from now

Three hours from now, the cinema will be empty.
The film **will have finished**.
Everyone **will have gone** home.



three hours from now

B

I **will be doing** something (*future continuous*) = I will be in the middle of doing it:

- ☐ This time next week I'll be on holiday. I'll **be lying** on the beach or **swimming** in the sea.
- ☐ You have no chance of getting the job. You'll **be wasting** your time if you apply for it.

Compare **will be (do)ing** and **will (do)**:

- ☐ Don't phone between 7 and 8. We'll **be having** dinner.
- ☐ Let's wait for Liz to arrive and then we'll **have** dinner.

Compare **will be -ing** with other continuous forms:

- ☐ At 10 o'clock yesterday, Sally **was** in her office. She **was working**. (*past*)
It's 10 o'clock now. She **is** in her office. She **is working**. (*present*)
At 10 o'clock tomorrow, she **will be** in her office. She **will be working**.

C

We also use **will be -ing** to talk about complete actions in the future.

For example:

- ☐ The government **will be making** a statement about the crisis later today.
- ☐ **Will you be going** away this summer?
- ☐ Later in the programme, I'll **be talking** to the Minister of Education ...
- ☐ Our best player is injured and **won't be playing** in the game on Saturday.



In these examples **will be -ing** is similar to **(be) going to ...**

D

We use **will have (done)** (*future perfect*) to say that something will already be complete before a time in the future. For example:

- ☐ Sally always leaves for work at 8.30 in the morning. She won't be at home at 9 o'clock – she'll **have gone** to work.
- ☐ We're late. The film **will already have started** by the time we get to the cinema.

Compare **will have (done)** with other perfect forms:

- ☐ Ted and Amy **have been** married for 24 years. (*present perfect*)
Next year they **will have been** married for 25 years.
When their son was born, they **had been** married for three years. (*past perfect*)

Exercises

- 24.1** Read about Andy. Then tick (✓) the sentences which are true. In each group of sentences at least one is true.

Andy goes to work every day. He leaves home at 8 o'clock and arrives at work at about 8.45. He starts work immediately and continues until 12.30 when he has lunch (which takes about half an hour). He starts work again at 1.15 and goes home at exactly 4.30. Every day he follows the same routine and tomorrow will be no exception.



At 7.45

- a he'll be leaving the house
- b he'll have left the house
- c he'll be at home ✓
- d he'll be having breakfast ✓



At 12.45

- a he'll have lunch
- b he'll be having lunch
- c he'll have finished his lunch
- d he'll have started his lunch



At 8.15

- a he'll be leaving the house
- b he'll have left the house
- c he'll have arrived at work
- d he'll be arriving at work



At 4 o'clock

- a he'll have finished work
- b he'll finish work
- c he'll be working
- d he won't have finished work



At 9.15

- a he'll be working
- b he'll start work
- c he'll have started work
- d he'll be arriving at work



At 4.45

- a he'll leave work
- b he'll be leaving work
- c he'll have left work
- d he'll have arrived home

- 24.2** Put the verb into the correct form, **will be (do)ing** or **will have (done)**.

- 1 Don't phone between 7 and 8. We'll be having dinner then. (we / have)
- 2 Phone me after 8 o'clock. I'll have finished dinner by then. (we / finish)
- 3 Tomorrow afternoon we're going to play tennis from 3 o'clock until 4.30. So at 4 o'clock, we'll be playing tennis. (we / play)
- 4 A: Can we meet tomorrow?
B: Yes, but not in the afternoon. I'll be working. (I / work)
- 5 *B has to go to a meeting which begins at 10 o'clock. It will last about an hour.*
A: Will you be free at 11.30?
B: Yes, I'll have finished by then. (the meeting / end)
- 6 Ben is on holiday and he is spending his money very quickly. If he continues like this, he'll have spent all his money before the end of his holiday. (he / spend)
- 7 Do you think he'll still be doing the same job in ten years' time? (you / still / do)
- 8 Lisa is from New Zealand. She is travelling around Europe at the moment. So far she has travelled about 1,000 miles. By the end of the trip, she'll have travelled more than 3,000 miles. (she / travel)
- 9 If you need to contact me, I'll be staying at the Lion Hotel until Friday. (I / stay)
- 10 A: Will you see Laura tomorrow? (you / see)
B: Yes, probably. Why?
A: I borrowed this DVD from her. Can you give it back to her?