

UNIT 5

The Future

Use

We use the future simple:

- ◆ for future actions which may or may not happen.



We'll visit Disney World one day.

- ◆ for predictions about the future.
Life will be better fifty years from now.
- ◆ for threats or warnings.



Stop or I'll shoot.

- ◆ for promises or on-the-spot decisions.



I'll help you with your homework.

- ◆ with the verbs **hope, think, believe, expect, etc.**, the expressions **I'm sure, I'm afraid, etc.** and the adverbs **probably, perhaps, etc.**
I think he will support me.
He will probably go to work.

Time Expressions

Time expressions used with the future simple include:

tomorrow, the day after tomorrow, next week/month/year, tonight, soon, in a week/month/year, etc.

Will/ Shall

We use:

- ◆ **Will you ...?** to ask someone to do something for us (request).
e.g. *Will you post these letters for me, please?*
(= *Can you post these letters for me, please?*)
- ◆ **Shall I ...?** when we offer to do something for someone else.
e.g. *Shall I help you clean your room?*
(= *Do you want me to help you clean your room?*)
- ◆ **Shall we ...?** to make a suggestion.
e.g. *Shall we go to the theatre tonight?*
(= *Why don't we go to the theatre tonight?*)

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Ask questions using the prompts, as in the example.

- 1 The garden is very untidy. (I / cut / the grass)
Shall I cut the grass?
- 2 It's a lovely evening. (we / go for / a walk)
.....
- 3 I need a hot drink. (I / make / some tea)
.....
- 4 It's very quiet in here. (I / turn on / the radio)
.....
- 5 The Smiths are back. (we / visit / them)
.....
- 6 I've cut my finger. (I / get / a plaster)
.....

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Replace the words in *italics* with *Will you, Shall I or Shall we*, as in the example.

- 1 *Why don't we* spend our holidays in Spain this summer?
Shall we spend our holidays in Spain this summer?
- 2 *Do you want me to* go to the supermarket for you?
.....
- 3 *Can you* pick up the children from school for me, please?
.....
- 4 *Why don't we* listen to that new CD?
.....
- 5 *Do you want me to* book the tickets for you?
.....
- 6 *Can you* take my jacket to the dry-cleaner's for me, please?
.....

6 Answer the following questions about yourself using *I think/I hope/I expect I'll ... or I'm sure/I'm afraid I'll ...*, as in the example.

- Where will you be at 5 o'clock tomorrow afternoon?
I expect I'll be at home.
- Where will you go at the weekend?
- Where will you spend your holidays?
- What will you do if you fail your exams?
- When will you buy your own car?
- Who will you ask for help if you are in trouble?

NOTE:

We do not use the future simple after: **while, before, until, as soon as, after, if and when.** We use the present simple instead.

e.g. *I'll make a phone call while I wait for you.*
(NOT: ... while I will wait for you.)

"When" can be followed by the future simple if it is used as a **question word.**

e.g. *When will you return?*
I don't know when Helen will be back.

"When" is followed by the present simple if it is used as a **time word.**

e.g. *Please phone me when you finish work.*

7 Put the verbs in brackets into the present simple or the future simple.

- They ...*will/I'll go...* (go) to school when they (be) five years old.
- I (call) you before I (leave) for Paris.
- He (write) a letter to her every day while he (be) at college.
- We (do) our homework when we (get) home.
- John (fix) the tap as soon as he (come) back from work.
- When (you/pack) your suitcase?
- I (not/do) anything until you (be) ready.
- When (you/phone) me?
- I promise I (buy) you a present when I (return) from my holiday.
- When she (pass) her driving test, she (buy) a car.

10 Fill in the gaps with *will/shall* or the correct form of *be going to* and the verb in brackets.

- A: (1) ...*Shall we go...* (we/go) to the football match on Saturday?
B: I can't. I (2) (help) my sister.
A: Oh yes. She is moving house, isn't she?
B: That's right. (3) (you/help) us?
A: Yes, I'd like to. What time (4) (I/come) to your house?
B: I'm not sure yet. I (5) (probably/phone) you on Friday to tell you. Is that alright?
A: Yes. I think I (6) (be) in then.
B: Okay. (7) (we/go) for a walk now?
A: I'd rather not. Look at those black clouds. It (8) (rain). Let's stay in and watch a video.
B: Great idea.

11 Fill in the gaps with *shall, will* or the correct form of *be going to*.

- A: The shops are closed tomorrow.
B: I ...*will...* buy bread and milk today then.
- A: we tell Mr Peck about the accident?
B: That's a good idea. Maybe he can help.
- A: It's too dark in here to read.
B: Is it? I turn on the light.
- A: Please come and see us.
B: We visit you soon, that's a promise.
- A: I wear a jumper or a coat?
B: It's very cold. Take your coat.
- A: Can we go out to play, Mum?
B: No, we have dinner now.

Compare the following examples

We can use the **future simple, be going to, present continuous** or **present simple** to talk about future actions.

- He'll sell his car.*
(*will*: the future action may or may not happen)
- She's going to study abroad next year.*
(*be going to*: to express intention)
- They're leaving for Mexico tomorrow.*
(*present continuous*: for an arranged action)
- The bus leaves at nine o'clock.*
(*present simple*: for timetables)

13**Put the verbs in brackets into the present continuous or the present simple.**

- 1 "...*is Gordon coming...* (Gordon/come) with us tonight?" "No, he ...*isn't*... (be/not)"
- 2 My sister (go) to university in September.
- 3 What time (the play/start) tomorrow?
- 4 Natalie (have) a birthday party on Saturday.
- 5 Megan (sing) in the school concert tomorrow night.
- 6 The flight to Berlin (leave) at six o'clock.
- 7 The Browns (move) to their new house this weekend.
- 8 What time (the ferry/reach) Calais tomorrow afternoon?

16**Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense.**


Dear Martha,

I 1) ...*'m writing...* (write) to tell you my good news.

I 2) (save) enough money from my part-time job and, at last, I 3) (open) a flower shop. My father 4) (own) a shop years ago and he 5) (give) me some advice and suggestions. He 6) (think) that my shop 7) (be) a success, because there isn't another flower shop in the area.

The shop isn't ready yet. My brother 8) (already/paint) the inside of the shop and tomorrow he 9) (paint) the outside. I 10) (need) to buy a new sign. My mother 11) (want) me to call the shop "Rose", but I 12) (still/think) about it. Anyway, I just hope the local people 13) (like) it.

I 14) (start) work next Monday. I 15) (probably/phone) you some time next week if I 16) (have) time. Wish me luck.

Best wishes,
Nicky

11

- | | |
|------------|--------------------|
| 2 Shall | 5 Shall |
| 3 will/'ll | 6 are/'re going to |
| 4 will/'ll | |

2

- 2 Shall we go for a walk?
- 3 Shall I make some tea?
- 4 Shall I turn on the radio?
- 5 Shall we visit them?
- 6 Shall I get a plaster?

4

- 2 Shall I go to the supermarket for you?
- 3 Will you pick up the children from school for me, please?
- 4 Shall we listen to that new CD?
- 5 Shall I book the tickets for you?
- 6 Will you take my jacket to the dry-cleaner's for me, please?

7

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 are | 7 will not/won't do, are |
| 2 will/'ll call, leave | 8 will you phone |
| 3 will/'ll write, is | 9 will buy, return |
| 4 will/'ll do, get | 10 passes, will/'ll buy |
| 5 will/'ll fix, comes | |
| 6 will you pack | |

10

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 2 am/'m going to help | 5 will/'ll probably phone |
| 3 Will you help | 6 will/'ll be |
| 4 shall I come | 7 Shall we go |
| | 8 is/'s going to rain |

13

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 2 is going | 6 leaves |
| 3 does the play start | 7 are moving |
| 4 is having | 8 does the ferry reach |
| 5 is singing | |

16

- 2 have/'ve saved
- 3 am/'m going to open
- 4 owned
- 5 has/'s given
- 6 thinks
- 7 will/'ll be
- 8 has/'s already painted
- 9 is/'s going to paint
- 10 need
- 11 wants
- 12 am/'m still thinking
- 13 will like
- 14 am/'m starting
- 15 will/'ll probably phone
- 16 have

Key: