23 Future overview

23.1 THE FUTURE

The present simple can be used to talk about events that are timetabled or scheduled to take place in the future.

The train arrives at 10pm.

The simple future is the most common form used to refer to an event in the future.



The present continuous can be used to talk about future arrangements and plans.

I'm traveling to Paris by train later this evening.



The future continuous describes an event that will be in progress at a given time in the future. The event will start before the stated time and may continue after it.



23.2 "GOING TO" AND "WILL"

English uses both "going to" and "will" to talk about the future. They can sometimes have a very similar meaning, but there are certain situations where they mean different things.

"Will" is used to make predictions that aren't based on present evidence.

I think Number 2 will win.

This is a prediction



"Going to" is used when there is evidence in the present moment to support a prediction.



English uses different constructions to talk about the future. These are mostly formed with the auxiliary verb "will" or a form of "be" with "going to."

See also: The future with "going to" 17 The future with "will" 18

The future perfect is used to predict when an action or event will be finished. This tense looks back from an imagined time in the future.

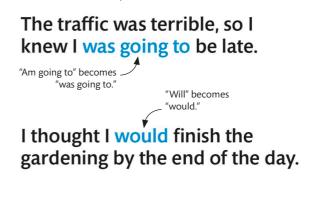
They will have built the skyscraper by next year.

The future perfect continuous is used to predict the eventual duration of an activity. This tense looks back from the endpoint of the action.

By July, they will have been working on it for a year.



The future in the past describes thoughts about the future that someone had at some point in the past. There are three ways to form this construction.



I was nervous on Sunday night. I was starting a new job the next day.

"Am starting" becomes "was starting."

