

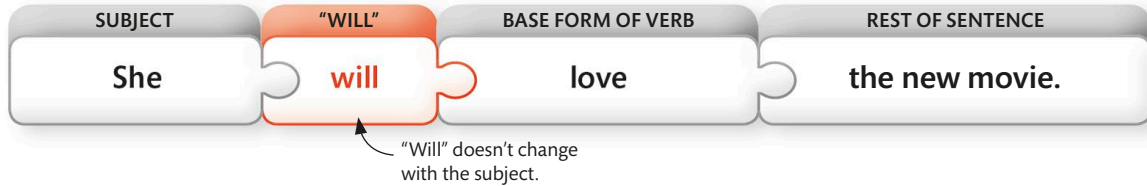
18 The future with “will”

“Will” is used to form some future tenses in English. It can be used in several different ways, which are all different from the future with “going to.”

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18.1 HOW TO FORM THE FUTURE WITH “WILL”



18.2 THE FUTURE USING “WILL”

English uses “will” when talking about the future in four main ways:

To make a prediction about what you think will happen.



Wait a few minutes. I think **it will stop** raining soon.

This prediction is not based on evidence.

To offer to do something for someone.



You look frozen. **I’ll make** you some hot soup.

Contraction

To make a promise.



We’ll be there by eight. Don’t worry!

This decision was not planned in advance.

To describe a decision you’ve just made.



I know! **I’ll buy** Aaron a surfboard for his birthday.

TIP

Remember to use the future with “going to” for predictions based on current evidence, and for decisions made before the time of speaking.

18.3 "WILL" FOR PREDICTIONS

"Will" is used to talk about predictions about the future when there is no firm evidence for that prediction.



This movie is great. You **will** love it.

There is no firm evidence that the person will like the movie.

FURTHER EXAMPLES

The mall **will** be so busy this afternoon.



They'll enjoy their trip to Venice.



Jane **will** probably like the new house. It's really nice.



She'll be really angry when she finds out.



"Probably" means something is likely, but not definite.

18.4 "WILL" FOR QUICK DECISIONS

"Will" is used to describe quick decisions that someone has made at the time of speaking. They are often a solution to an unexpected problem.



"Will" shows you have just made the decision.

Oh, it's raining! **I'll** take my umbrella.

FURTHER EXAMPLES

"Will not" or "won't" is the negative form of "will."

It's midnight. I **won't** walk home through the park.



This apple is delicious. **I'll** have another one.



"So" is often used to join a situation to a quick decision.

There's no juice, so **I'll** have some water instead.



The car has broken down, so **I'll** have to walk to work.



18.5 "WILL" FOR MAKING OFFERS

"Will" is also used to offer to do something for someone.



You seem busy. **I'll** pick the kids up from school today.

FURTHER EXAMPLES

I'll go to the post office for you if you want.



Sit down and relax, **I'll** make you a cup of tea.



You must be starving! **I'll** make you a sandwich.



Since you cooked, **I'll** do the dishes.



18.6 "WILL" FOR MAKING PROMISES

"Will" can be used when making a promise.

Don't worry, **I'll** be careful.



FURTHER EXAMPLES

We'll let you know as soon as your car's ready.



I'll take care of everything while you're away.



I'll feed the cat when I get home.



Ben said **he'll** call us as soon as he gets home.



If you bring the food, **we'll** take care of the drinks.



Don't worry, **I'll** lock the front door when I leave.



18.7 "THINK" WITH "WILL"

"Think" can be used with "will" to show that a prediction is just an opinion, or a decision is not final.

"That" is used after "think," but it can be left out.

This is an uncertain prediction.



I **think** that **we'll** have enough food for the party.



I'm tired. I **think** **I'll** go to bed.

This decision is still being considered.

FURTHER EXAMPLES

It's cold outside, but we don't **think** **it'll** snow today.



"Think" is made negative, rather than "will."

I **think** **I'll** cook chicken for dinner this evening.



If we hurry, I **think** **we'll** get to the airport on time.



I **think** **I'll** take the children ice-skating tomorrow.



18.8 FUTURE WITH "SHALL"

"Shall" is used instead of "will" when asking for a decision, or making offers or suggestions. In these cases, it is only used with "I" or "we." It is rarely used in US English.

Shall I pick you up or **shall we** meet at the restaurant?

"Shall" is being used to make an offer.

"Shall" is being used to make a suggestion.



FURTHER EXAMPLES

Shall I cook chicken or beef tonight?



I'm bored, **shall we** go out for a walk?



It's so hot in here. **Shall I** open a window?



Shall we try to finish the gardening today?

