

Ways of expressing Future Actions.

Future Simple

1. I've got a terrible headache.
- Have you? I'll get you an aspirin.

I don't know how to switch it on.
It's quite simple. I'll show you.

A decision made on the spot.

2. I think Tom will get an excellent mark. He's been working hard.

Subjective prediction of the future

Often with the verbs:

Expect
Think
Assume
Be sure
Be afraid
Suppose
Believe

or adverbs like:

perhaps
probably
surely
possibly

Ask him again. Perhaps he will change his mind.

3. In formal style for scheduled events (particularly in the written language)
//The wedding will take place at St. Andrews on June 27th.//

4. Expressing *offers, refusals, promises, requests, agreements*.

1) I'd like you to start the work as soon as possible.

- O.K. I'll start right away.

2) Unfortunately I can't buy this hat. I don't have enough money.
I'll lend you some. How much do you need?

3) Don't rely on his help. He won't help us.

4) I know it's in confidence. I won't tell Tom.

5) Will you stop that noise. I'm trying to concentrate.

Present Continuous

1. Planned actions, arrangements.

//We are spending next winter in Australia.// (adverbials are necessary unless the meaning is clear from the context)

2. Travel arrangements.

(verbs like *go, arrive, leave, come*)

//He's arriving tomorrow morning on the 13.27 train.//

"Going to"

1. Expressing planned actions, intentions (especially in informal style)

//She's going to have a game of tennis this afternoon.//

(in formal written language planned actions are expressed with "will")

2. Reference to the remote future is less common, time reference is usually required.

//She is going to be a ballet dancer when she grows up.//

If the speaker wants to be more precise about intentions and plans, the verbs “*to intend*”, “*to plan*” and “*to propose*” are used.

//They intend to built a new motorway to the west.//(more precise)

//They are going to built a new motorway to the west.// (vague)

3. Predictions of the future actions.

(especially in reference to the immediate future)

There are usually some signs or some evidence concerning what is about to happen.

//He’s going to get into a street accident pretty soon. Look! He’s driving so dangerously.//

//It is going to snow. Look at the clouds.//

//You don’t look too well. You are not going to come down with a cold, are you?//

Future Continuous

1. Actions that will be in progress in the immediate or distant future.

//Hurry up! The quests will be arriving any minute.//

2. Visualized future activities that are already planned.

//By (at) this time tomorrow I’ll be lying on the beach.//

3. Polite enquiries about plans and intentions.

//When will you be seeing Mr. White?//

4. Expressing simple futurity with a softening effect, that takes away the element of deliberate intention that is common for will.

//I will write letters tomorrow.// (promise, intention)

//I will be writing letters tomorrow.// (futurity)

5. Anticipation of future actions (based on 1) previous experience or knowledge, 2) natural course of events.)

//He never stays here long. He’ll be leaving quite soon.//

I can speak to Alan if you want me to. I’ll be seeing him at lunch. (we usually meet at lunch)

//It is September. Soon the leaves will be falling.// (it usually happens in September)

//Don’t tell Jill about it. She’ll be talking about it all over the town.// (it’s very typical of her)

6. Enquiring about a person’s plans before expressing a request.

//Will you be using your car in the afternoon, Dad? If not, do you think I could use it?//

//Will you be passing the post office? Could you post this letter for me?//

7. When parting with people or in letters.

//Bye! I’ll be seeing you soon.//

//Bye! I’ll be writing to you pretty soon.//