

Future plans and decisions

Lesson code: 11JU-76C8-T4Z2

INTERMEDIATE

 American English

1 Presentation

When we talk about plans or decisions for the future, we can use the **present continuous**, **going to**, or **will + infinitive**.

Future plans

We use the **present continuous** to talk about plans or arrangements for the future:

I'm meeting an old friend for lunch tomorrow.

I'm flying to France next Wednesday.

Are you going on vacation this summer?

We do not use **will** to talk about future plans. We can use **will + infinitive** to talk about something that is possible in the future:

'Where are you going on vacation this summer?' 'I don't know. Perhaps **I'll go** to Italy.'

Maybe I **will see** you at the party next week.

will + infinitive is often used with **I think**, **I don't think**, **I'm sure**, **probably**, **perhaps**, **maybe**, etc.

A: We **are going** to Spain this summer. What about you?

B: I don't know yet. Maybe I **will go** to Italy.

Decisions for the future

We use **going to + infinitive** to talk about intentions or decisions for the future:

I've made my decision. **I'm going to quit** smoking.

Are you going to come to the party tonight?

We use **will + infinitive** when we make a spontaneous decision at the time of speaking (not before):

'It's cold in here.' '**I'll go** shut the window.'

'Can you send me the information I need?' 'Sure, **I'll do** it right away.'

A: Have you decided what to cook tonight?

B: Yes, **I'm going to cook** fish and rice.

B: Fine. **I'll bring** a bottle of white wine.



2 Practice 1 - Future plans

Put the verb in brackets into the most suitable form, present continuous or 'will' + infinitive:

1. What _____ (you/do) on Saturday night? Would you like to go to a concert?
2. I think I _____ (stay) at home this evening. I'm feeling a bit ill.
3. I'm afraid I can't meet you for a coffee tomorrow afternoon. I _____ (have) lunch with a coworker.
4. We can meet on Sunday. I _____ (not/do) anything special.
5. The train _____ (probably/arrive) late again.
6. What time _____ (you/meet) Mike tomorrow?
7. Do you think it _____ (rain) tonight?
8. I _____ (travel) to Thailand next week. Maybe I _____ (send) you a postcard.
9. I _____ (work) late on Tuesday, so I _____ (probably/not/be) free till late evening.
10. Jack _____ (host) a party next Thursday. A lot of people _____ (come).

3 Practice 2 - Decisions for the future

Complete the dialogues using 'will' or 'going to' + infinitive:

1. A: I've decided. I _____ (look) for a new job.
B: Good idea! I _____ (help) you prepare a good CV.
2. A: When _____ (you/bring) those books that you promised to lend me?
B: Oh, I'm sorry. I completely forgot about that. I _____ (bring) them in tomorrow morning.
3. A: So, you've decided to buy a new car. What type of car _____ (you/choose)?
B: I don't know.
A: Mark knows a lot about cars. I _____ (ask) him to call you later on.
4. A: What _____ (you/get) John for his birthday?
B: I _____ (buy) him a digital camera. What about you?
A: I haven't decided yet. Perhaps I _____ (get) him an iPad.
5. A: _____ (you/visit) Paul next Friday?
B: I don't know yet. I _____ (call) you tomorrow to let you know.
6. A: What _____ (you/do) for New Year's Eve?
B: We _____ (eat) at a fancy restaurant.
7. A: Why have you turned off the music?
B: I _____ (lie) down for while. I was feeling a bit tired.
A: OK, I _____ (not/disturb) you then.
8. A: Have you decided where you _____ (stay) on your trip?
B: Well, I _____ (not/stay) at the Siesta Hotel, that's for sure. It's too expensive.



4 Practice 3

Self-study: Write down your plans and intentions for next week.

Classroom activity: Work in pairs. Take turns to talk about your plans and intentions for next week. Write down your partner's plans in the weekly planner below. Find a new partner and tell him/her what your old partner is doing next week.



2 Practice 1 - Future plans

1. are you doing
2. will stay
3. 'm having
4. 'm not doing
5. will probably arrive
6. are you meeting
7. will rain
8. 'm traveling; 'll send
9. 'm working; probably won't be
10. is hosting; are coming

3 Practice 2 - Decisions for the future

1. 'm going to look; 'll help
2. are you going to bring; 'll bring
3. are you going to choose; 'll ask
4. are you going to get; 'm going to buy; 'll get
5. Are you going to visit; 'll call
6. are you going to do; 're going to eat
7. 'm going to lie; won't disturb you
8. are going to stay; 'm not going to stay

4 Practice 3

Monitor the classroom activity. Students should write down their partners' plans in note form, e.g. "I'm having lunch with friends." - 'lunch with friends'.

