

Introduction to Future Tenses

What Are Future Tenses?

Future tenses describe actions that **have not yet happened** but will occur later. English does not have a single "future tense" like past or present; instead, it uses several constructions to express future meaning based on context.

The Main Future Forms

1. Future with "will" (Simple Future)
2. Future with "going to"
3. Present Continuous for the future
4. Simple Present for scheduled future
5. Future Continuous
6. Future Perfect
7. Future Perfect Continuous

1. Simple Future (will)

Structure:

Subject + will + base verb

Examples:

- *I will call you later.*
- *He will not come to class today.*
- *Will they attend the meeting?*

Uses:

- Predictions (no evidence): *It will snow tomorrow.*
- Promises/offers: *I'll help you carry that.*
- Decisions at the moment: *I think I'll stay home tonight.*

2. Be going to + verb

Structure:

Subject + am/is/are + going to + base verb

Examples:

- *She is going to visit Italy.*
- *We aren't going to stay long.*

Uses:

- Plans or intentions: *I'm going to start a new job.*
- Predictions based on evidence: *Look at those clouds! It's going to rain.*

3. Present Continuous (for future arrangements)

Structure:

Subject + am/is/are + verb(-ing)

Examples:

- *I'm meeting John at 6.*
- *They're flying to Tokyo tomorrow.*

Use:

- Used for fixed or arranged future events (especially social or travel).

4. Simple Present (for schedules)

Structure:

Subject + base verb (add -s for he/she/it)

Examples:

- *The train leaves at 7:30 p.m.*
- *School starts next week.*

Use:

- Timetables, programs, or public schedules.