

Ways of expressing the future

1. *will*-future

... when we want to make a **prediction** or an **assumption** about the future.

I think Fiona will like it here.

(I think / expect / wonder / hope ... , I'm sure ... , probably / perhaps ...)

... when we make a **spontaneous decision**, an **offer** or **promise**.

"It's raining!" – "I'll lend you my umbrella."

... when we describe **facts in the future**.

Patrick will be twenty-four next Thursday.

... in **conditional sentences type I**

If you book your flight early, you'll get it cheaper.

... with the following **time conjunctions**: *after, when, until, before, as soon as*

We'll play cards after (when, until, before, as soon as) she arrives.

2. *going to*-future

... when we talk about **intentions** or **plans** for the future.

I am going to watch the football match.

... when something will **very probably happen** because there are already signs of it happening.

"Look at those black clouds! It's going to rain."

3. Present progressive

... when something is **definitely planned** or **arranged** for the future.

We're flying to Dublin on Saturday.

4. Present simple ("timetable future")

... when a future event is a fixed part of a **timetable, programme, schedule** or suchlike.

The first bus to Galway leaves at 6.20.

5. Future progressive

... when an action or event will be **in progress** at a point of time **in the future**.

This time on Saturday I will be flying to Dublin.

... when something will happen because it **normally happens**.

In a few minutes we'll be arriving at York central station.

6. Future perfect

... when an action or event will be **complete** at a point of time **in the future**.

I suppose John will have left when we arrive.

7. was / were going to

... Note the existence of *was / were going to*, which can indicate a past intention or a **plan that has since been changed** ('future in the past').

I was going to work in the garden, but then it started to rain.

You were going to spend your holidays in the States, but in the end you decided it would be too expensive.

Ways of expressing the future

1. *will*-future

... when we want to make a _____ or an _____ about the future.

I think Fiona will like it here.

(I think / expect / wonder / hope ... , I'm sure ... , probably / perhaps ...)

... when we make a _____ decision, an _____ or _____.

"It's raining!" – "I'll lend you my umbrella."

... when we describe _____ in the future.

Craig will be twenty-four next Thursday.

... in _____.

If you book your flight early, you'll get it cheaper.

... with the following _____: *after, when, until, before, as soon as*

We'll play cards after (when, until, before, as soon as) she arrives.

2. *going to*-future

... when we talk about _____ or _____ for the future.

I am going to watch the football match.

... when something will _____ because there are already signs of it happening.

"Look at those black clouds! It's going to rain."

3. Present progressive

... when something is _____ or _____ for the future.

We're flying to Dublin on Saturday.

4. Present simple ("timetable future")

... when a future event is a fixed part of a _____, _____ or suchlike.

The first bus to Galway leaves at 6.20.

5. Future progressive

... when an action or event will be _____ at a point of time in the future.

This time on Saturday will be flying to Dublin.

... when something will happen because it _____.

In a few minutes we'll be arriving at York central station.

6. Future perfect

... when an action or event will be _____ at a point of time in the future.

I suppose John will have left when we arrive.

7. *was / were going to*

... Note the existence of *was / were going to*, which can indicate a past intention or a _____ ('future in the past').

I was going to work in the garden, but then it started to rain.

You were going to spend your holidays in the States, but in the end you decided it would be too expensive.