Future Tenses

Grammar – future simple *(will + inf)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Affirmative</th>
<th>I will play / You will play / He/she/it will play / We will play / You will play (pl.) / They will play</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>I will not play / You will not play / He/she/it will not play / We will not play / You will not play / They will not play</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Question</td>
<td>Will I play? / Will you play? / Will he/she/it play? / Will we play? / Will you play? / Will they play?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some people have been taught that 'will' is 'the future' in English. This is not correct. Sometimes when we talk about the future we cannot use 'will'. Sometimes when we use 'will' we are not talking about the future.

We can use 'will' to talk about future events we believe to be certain.
- The sun will rise over there tomorrow morning.
- Next year, I'll be 50.
- That plane will be late. It always is.
- There won't be any snow. I'm certain. It's too warm.

Often we add 'perhaps', 'maybe', 'probably', 'possibly' to make the belief less certain.
- I'll probably come back later.
- He'll possibly find out when he sees Jenny.
- Maybe it will be OK.
- Perhaps we'll meet again some day.

We often use 'will' with 'I think' or 'I hope'.
- I think I'll go to bed now.
- I think she'll do well in the job.
- I hope you'll enjoy your stay.
- I hope you won't make too much noise.

We use 'will' at the moment we make a new decision or plan. The thought has just come into our head.
- Bye. I'll phone you when I get there.
- I'll answer that.
- I won't tell him. I promise.
Grammar – future simple *(be (is, am are) going to + inf)*

**Affirmative:** I am going to play / You are going to play / He/she/it is going to play / We are going to play / You are going to play / They are going to play

**Negative:** I am not going to play / You are not going to play / He/she/it is not going to play / We are not going to play / You are not going to play / They are not going to play

**Question:** Am I going to play? / Are you going to play? / Is he/she/it going to play? / Are we going to play? / Are you going to play? / Are they going to play?

The one which is used most often in spoken English is 'going to', not 'will'. We use 'going to' when we want to talk about a plan for the future.
- I'm going to see him later today.
- They're going to launch it next month.
- We're going to have lunch first.
- She's going to see what she can do.
- I'm not going to talk for very long.

Notice that this plan does not have to be for the near future.
- When I retire, I'm going to go back to Barbados to live.
- In ten years’ time, I'm going to be boss of my own successful company.

We use 'going to' when we want to make a prediction based on evidence we can see now.
- Look out! That cup is going to fall off.
- Look at those black clouds. It's going to rain soon.
- These figures are really bad. We're going to make a loss.
- You look very tired. You're going to need to stop soon.

We can replace 'going to go' by 'going'.
- I'm going out later.
- She's going to the exhibition tomorrow.
Grammar – future continuous (**will + be + ing**)

<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Affirmative:</strong></th>
<th>I will be doing / You will be doing / He/she/it will be doing / We will be doing / You will be doing (plural) / They will be doing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Negative:</strong></td>
<td>I will not be doing / You will not be doing / He/she will not be doing / We will not be doing / You will not be doing / They will not be doing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Question:</strong></td>
<td>Will I be doing? / Will you be doing? / Will he/she/it be doing? / Will we be doing? / Will you be doing? / Will they be doing?</td>
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We can use ‘future continuous’ to talk about something that will be in progress at a particular moment in the future.

- This time next week, I'll be sitting on the beach in Barbados.
- I'll be thinking about you all back in the office – and I'll be laughing.
- We'll be enjoying ourselves too, boss. We won't be doing any work while you are not here.

To talk about future events that are fixed or decided.

- I'll be visiting your country on a regular basis. In fact, I'm going to be coming next month.
- He'll be looking after the factory until we can appoint a new manager.
- They'll be thinking about this very carefully over the next few months.

To predict what is happening now.

- Try phoning his hotel. He'll probably still be having breakfast.
- They'll be deciding who gets the contract at this very moment. I'm very nervous.
- She's not in her office. She'll be having lunch in the canteen.

To ask extremely politely, and with no pressure, about future plans.

- Will you be eating with us this evening?
- Will you be needing anything else?
- Will they be joining us for dinner?
**Grammar – future perfect simple** *(will + have + p/p)*

| **Affirmative:** | I will have done / You will have done / He/she/it will have done / We will have done / You will have done *(plural)* / They will have done |
| **Negative:** | I will not have done / You will not have done / He/she/it will not have done / We will not have done / You will not have done / They will not have done |
| **Question:** | Will I have done? / Will you have done? / Will he/she/it have done? / Will we have done? / Will you have done? / Will they have done? |

We can use 'future perfect simple' to talk about what will have been achieved by a certain moment in time.
- We'll have been in these offices for eight years next month.
- She'll have visited ten countries in twelve days by the time she gets back.
- I'll have finished this project by Friday.

If we want to emphasise the continuity of the activity, we can use the continuous form.
- I'll have been working here for 35 years by the time I retire.
- She'll have been driving for more than fifteen hours straight by the time she gets here.
- They'll have been working with us for 15 years by the end of this year.

We can also use 'future perfect simple' to predict what we think has already happened at present.
- He'll have already read the report by now. Too late to change it.
- She'll have boarded her plane. It’s too late to contact her.
They’ll have decided by now. We should hear the result today or tomorrow.
Future Forms Exercise 1
(Intermediate level)

Fill in the correct form of the Future Tense. In some sentences several forms are possible.

1. They __________________________ driving to New York tomorrow evening. (DRIVE)
2. I offered him a job last week and I think he __________________________ it. (TAKE)
3. I hope the weather __________________________ nice when you get to Sardinia. (BE)
4. We __________________________ married on June 25th . (GET)
5. I suppose real estate prices __________________________ up again next year. (GO)
6. What __________________________ when you grow up? – I __________________________ a pilot. (YOU DO, BE)
7. I am __________________________ football this afternoon so I can’t make it to the party. (PLAY)
8. Put your wallet away. I __________________________ for the tickets. (PAY)
9. I __________________________ John at the airport tomorrow at 5.30. (MEET)
10. Take the umbrella with you. I think it __________________________ in the afternoon. (RAIN)
11. I think I __________________________ a cup of tea after all. (HAVE)
12. Ask Mary. She __________________________ the answer (PROBABLY KNOW)
13. Which car __________________________ to buy? (YOU PLAN)
14. Jack missed the train. He __________________________ late again. (BE)
15. All our stores __________________________ next Monday at 10.00 a.m. (OPEN)
16. We __________________________ our holidays in France next year. (SPEND)
17. What do you want to eat? – I think I __________________________ a sandwich. (HAVE)
18. We have to go now. It __________________________ late. (GET)
19. I can’t talk about it now, but I __________________________ you a mail next week. (SEND)
20. The Jacksons __________________________ a party tomorrow afternoon, but they haven’t invited us. (HAVE)

Adapted from: www.english-grammar.at
Future Forms Exercise 2
(Advanced level)

Complete the sentences using a form of the future, future progressive or future perfect.

1. We _________________________ the room by the time you get back. (FINISH)
2. The phone is ringing. – I _________________________ and answer it. (GO)
3. I _________________________ tomorrow so we can go to the beach. (NOT WORK)
4. If you touch the stove, you _________________________ yourself. (BURN)
5. She _________________________ for the job that was advertised in the newspaper. (APPLY)
6. Next week at this time we _________________________ in the sun in Spain (LIE)
7. My sister _________________________ in the USA next year. (STUDY)
8. The Pope _________________________ Turkey in November. (VISIT)
9. I _________________________ lunch with Mary at 12. (HAVE)
10. I don’t think the exam _________________________ very difficult. (BE)
11. Jane _________________________ on her thesis for the next three months. (WORK)
12. By the time I arrive home, the workers _________________________ repairing my TV set. (FINISH)
13. During the next century the climate _________________________ (GET)
14. The guided tour _________________________ the hotel at 8.25 tomorrow morning. (LEAVE)
15. I think I _________________________ to bed early tonight. - I’m tired. (GO)
16. At this time next year, we _________________________ in our new house (LIVE)
17. What _________________________ if the firm gets reorganised? (HAPPEN)
18. We _________________________ to her whenever we get a chance (SPEAK).
19. They _________________________ married in June. (GET)
20. The headmaster _________________________ a new classroom next term. (OPEN)

Adapted from: www.english-grammar.at
Answer Key Exercise 1

1. They are driving/are going to drive/will be driving to New York tomorrow evening. (DRIVE)
2. I offered him a job last week and I think he will take it. (TAKE)
3. I hope the weather will be nice when you get to Sardinia. (BE)
4. We are getting married on June 25th. (GET)
5. I suppose real estate prices will go up again next year. (GO)
6. What are you going to do when you grow up? – I am going to be a pilot. (YOU DO, BE)
7. I am going to play/am playing/will be playing football this afternoon so I can't make it to the party. (PLAY)
8. Put your wallet away. I will pay for the tickets. (PAY)
9. I am meeting John at the airport tomorrow at 5.30. (MEET)
10. Take the umbrella with you. I think it will rain/is going to rain in the afternoon. (RAIN)
11. I think I will have a cup of tea after all. (HAVE)
12. Ask Mary. She will probably know the answer (PROBABLY KNOW)
13. Which car are you planning to buy? (YOU PLAN)
14. Jack missed the train. He is going to be late again. (BE)
15. All our stores are opening/will open next Monday at 10.00 a.m. (OPEN)
16. We are going to spend our holidays in France next year. (SPEND)
17. What do you want to eat? – I think I will have a sandwich. (HAVE)
18. We have to go now. It is getting late. (GET)
19. I can't talk about it now, but I will send you a mail next week. (SEND)
20. The Jacksons are having a party tomorrow afternoon, but they haven't invited us. (HAVE)
Answer Key Exercise 2

1. We will have finished the room by the time you get back. (FINISH)
2. The phone is ringing. – I'll go and answer it. (GO)
3. I am not working tomorrow so we can go to the beach. (NOT WORK)
4. If you touch the stove, you will burn yourself. (BURN)
5. She is going to apply for the job that was advertised in the newspaper. (APPLY)
6. Next week at this time we will be lying in the sun in Spain (LIE)
7. My sister is going to study in the USA next year. (STUDY)
8. The Pope is visiting Turkey in November. (VISIT)
9. I am having lunch with Mary at 12. (HAVE)
10. I don't think the exam will be very difficult. (BE)
11. Jane is going to be working/will be working on her thesis for the next three months. (WORK)
12. By the time I arrive home, the workers will have finished repairing my TV set. (FINISH)
13. During the next century the climate will get / will be getting warmer (GET)
14. The guided tour is leaving the hotel at 8.25 tomorrow morning. (LEAVE)
15. I think I will go to bed early tonight. - I’m tired. (GO)
16. At this time next year, we will be living in our new house (LIVE)
17. What will happen if the firm gets reorganised? (HAPPEN)
18. We are going to speak to her whenever we get a chance (SPEAK).
19. They are getting married in June. (GET)
20. The headmaster is going to open a new classroom next term. (OPEN)

Past perfect simple & continuous Exercise 1
(Advanced level)

Put the verbs in brackets into their correct forms.

1. I would have read the letter if I ________________ (know) it was from you.
2. If Tony doesn’t help in the garden I ________________ (not finish) my work in time.
3. If you ________________ (not tell) me about Maxwell’s birthday I would forget it.
4. We ________________ (catch) the train earlier if Mary had found her purse.
5. If Susan ________________ (learn) the poem she would have known the answer.
6. If it ___________ (be) too hot we will stop and get a cold drink.
7. If it ___________ (not rain) today I would stay at home.
8. If the Professor spoke clearly we ___________ (understand) him better.
9. If you go on talking like that we ___________ (throw) you out.
10. If Sasha ___________ (go) home now he would meet his own brother.
11. If it rained, the streets ___________ (be) wet.
12. If I ___________ (not tell) Jim the address he wouldn’t have found you.
13. The bird ___________ (die) if you had caught it.
14. What ___________ (you, do) if you won the lottery?
15. If the weather ___________ (not change) we will reach the top of the mountain.
16. Dinner ___________ (be) fine if the meat weren’t cold.
17. I’m sure Benny ___________ (come) if you wait a bit longer.
18. If you ring the bell, somebody ___________ (answer) it.
19. If Bert ___________ (see) you, he would have talked to you.
20. You ___________ (find) your ticket if you had looked into your pockets.
21. You ___________ (fall) ill if you eat so much.
22. What ___________ (happen) if the door had not been opened?
23. If Chris asked you for a cigarette, ___________ (you, give) him one?
24. If you ___________ (buy) that big car, you would need a lot of money.
25. ___________ (You, change) the colour of your hair if I asked you to do so?
26. If you give me the letter, I ___________ (post) it for you.
27. ___________ (You, post) the letter if I had given it to you?
28. If the weather is fine, I ___________ (go) swimming.
29. If you ___________ (not work) harder, you won’t pass the exam.
30. If they ___________ (be) rich, they would travel around the world.
31. The children ___________ (go) skating if the lake were frozen.
32. What would you have done, if you ___________ (lose) your handbag?
33. What will happen if you ___________ (not know) the answer?
34. She ___________ (go) on holiday, if she hadn’t been ill.
35. If I ___________ (notice) you, I would have said hello.
36. If I ___________ (be) like you, I wouldn’t watch such films.
37. If you opened your eyes, you ___________ (see) a wonderful world.
38. People ___________ (live) in peace if they stop fighting.
39. If Tom drinks so much, he ___________ (cannot drive) home.
40. If we ___________ (not hurry) we would miss the train.

Adapted from: www.english-grammar.at

**Answer Key Exercise 1**

1. If he ___________ (eat) everything he would have ___________ (be) ill. (3)
2. The police ___________ (arrest) him if they ___________ (catch) him (1)
3. What ___________ (happen) if my parachute ___________ (not open) (not open) ? (1)
4. I would be (be) angry if he made (make) more mistakes. (2)

5. If he hadn’t been (not be) late we would have gone (go) without him. (3)

6. If I lend (lend) you 10 pounds, will you give (you, give) it back to me? (1)

7. If you don’t like (not like) this one, I will bring (bring) you another one. (1)

8. If I had known (know) that I would have visited (visit) you. (3)

9. I would not drink (not drink) that wine if I was /were (be) you. (2)

10. If we had had (have) more rain our crops would have grown (grow) faster. (3)

11. If you paint (paint) the walls white the room will be (be) much brighter. (1)

12. I would have been able to repair (can repair) the roof myself if I had had (have) a ladder. (3)

13. You wouldn’t have (not have) so many accidents if you drove (drive) slower. (2)

14. What would you do (you, do) if you heard (hear) the alarm? (2)

15. If you go (go) to Paris where will you stay/are you staying/ will you be staying (you stay)? (1)

16. I would bring (bring) you something to drink if I knew (know) you were thirsty. (2)

17. If anyone had attacked (attack) me, my dog would have jumped (jump) at him. (3)

18. If everybody gives (give) me 3 pounds we will have (have) enough. (1)

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**Answer Key Exercise 2**

Put the verbs in brackets into their correct forms.

1. I would have read the letter if I had known (know) it was from you.
2. If Tony doesn’t help in the garden I will not finish (not finish) my work in time.
3. If you didn’t tell (not tell) me about Maxwell’s birthday I would forget it.
4. We would have caught (catch) the train earlier if Mary had found her purse.
5. If Susan had learned (learn) the poem she would have known the answer.
6. If it isn’t (be) too hot we will stop and get a cold drink.
7. If it didn’t rain (not rain) today I would stay it home.
8. If the Professor spoke clearly we would understand (understand) him better.
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