

**English Language Skills
Consolidation. Livello: B2**

**Module Three
Looking to the Future**

Contents:

Future forms:

will

going to

about to

present continuous

future continuous

future perfect simple

Looking to the future



To talk about the future

We use the Future simple to give or ask for information about the future in general.

- We **will need** the money on the 15th.
- **Will** all the family **be** at the wedding?
- It **will be** spring soon.
- She **won't be** here when you come.

Future time clauses

After time expressions as when, if, until and as soon as a **present tense** form is used, although this refers to future time.

- I'll wait for you here until you **get** back.
- If I'm there tomorrow. I'll phone you.
- When it's ready I'll give it to you.

The **present perfect** can be used to emphasize the completion of an event.

- I'll wait here until you **have finished**.

Near Future & pre-planned

- The Present Continuous is used to speak about something pre-planned that we know will take place in the near future, especially if we are using a verb that implies “moving from one place to another”
 - He is arriving tonight (I am certain)
 - They are living next Sunday (I know, it has been planned)

Plans and facts

- The Present Continuous is used to describe plans and arrangements which are definite.
 - Sorry, I can't help you, I'm leaving in the morning.
- The Present Continuous is used to describe fixed arrangements, and to ask about social arrangements.
 - Are you doing anything this evening?
 - Did you know I'm getting a new job?
 - What are we having for dinner?

Plans and facts

- With the Present Continuous we often give the time, date, and / or place when we talk about future personal arrangements and fixed plans.
 - What are you doing this evening? 'I'm washing my hair.'
 - My car's having a service next week.
 - We're going to Spain in June.
 - I'm seeing Pete on Tuesday. (There is an arrangement now.)

Plans and facts

- The Present Simple is used to describe future events which we cannot control. They may be facts, such as events in a timetable, or a law.
 - The plane for Paris leaves at 9.45.
- The Present Simple and Present Perfect can also be used to refer to future time.
 - I'll tell you the news when I see you.
 - Call me when you have finished.

Is to / are to/ was to

- We can talk about the future by saying that something **is to** happen. We often use this structure to talk about official plans and fixed personal arrangements.
 - The President **is to visit** Scotland in September.
 - We **are to get** a wage rise.
 - I felt nervous because I **was soon to leave** home for the first time.

Prediction

- We often make a prediction because we can see the cause of the event. **Be going to** is used to predict what may happen based on what we see.
 - Look out! There's a bus coming! It's **going to** hit us!
 - I can see you're **going to have** a baby. When is it due?
 - He is looking up! He **is going to fall** into the hole.

Prediction

- Be going to is also used instead of the Future Simple in predictions when there is no cause. It seems more colloquial.
 - I'm sure you 're going to enjoy the film.
 - I 'm sure you 'll enjoy the film.

Prediction

- If a predicted event is very near, and especially in impersonal statements, **be going to** is commonly used for predictions.
 - You're going to fall!
 - Liverpool are going to win the Cup.
- The **Future simple** can also be used in these examples, with no change of meaning.

Prediction

- When the **Future Simple** is used to make predictions, it is often preceded by / think, promise, predict, expect, hope, fear or by opinion words like perhaps.
 - I think it'll **rain** tomorrow.
 - Perhaps she'll **be** late.
 - Tomorrow **will be** warm with some cloud in the afternoon.
 - Who do you think **will win**?
 - You'll never **finish** that book.

Prediction

- We prefer the **Future Simple** when we are talking more about what is inside our heads: our beliefs, guesses, knowledge etc.
 - Don't lend him your car - he'll crash it. (I know him.)

Decisions and firm intentions

- **Be going to** is used when we talk about plans, decisions and firm intentions, especially in an informal style.
 - **We're going to** get a new car soon. (it's our decision)
 - **I am going to** wash my hair (that's my intention)
 - Will you come to my party? Sorry, I'm **going to** help Lola (prior plan /arrangement)

Decisions and firm intentions

- Be going to is used to describe a present intention.
 - I'm going to fix the television tomorrow.
 - I'm going to be an artist

Quick Decision

- The Future simple is used for decisions made at the time of speaking.
 - I know, I'll get him a wallet for his birthday.
 - Don't worry, I'll answer the phone!
 - Let me help you, I'll carry it



Conditions

- The Future Simple is used to state what we think will happen if certain conditions are met.
 - If you come I'll give you the book.
 - If you study you'll learn more
 - If he arrives on time he'll catch the bus

Comparing tenses use

We can often use more than one structure to talk about the same future event.

- **Present forms** emphasize present ideas like intention, certainty and plans.
- We prefer **Future simple** when we are not emphasizing present ideas.
- **Compare:**
 - Next year **is going to be** different (I promise)
 - Next year **will be** different. (probably)
 - What **are you doing** next year? (You haven't told me your plans)
 - What **will you do** next year ? (do you know?)

Comparing tenses use

In polite enquiries

- The Future Progressive suggests 'What have you already decided?' giving the idea that we are not trying to influence people.
 - Will you be staying in staying in this evening? (just asking about plans)
- Be going to presses for a decision
 - Are you going to stay in this evening? (perhaps pressing for a decision)
- Future simple is used as a request
 - Will you stay in this evening? (request)

Future Continuous

- The future continuous is used to describe a situation in the future at a particular time.
 - This time next week we'll be eating lunch on the plane!
 - This time tomorrow I'll be skiing.
 - At six o'clock tonight we'll be flying to London

Future Continuous

- The future continuous is used to predict a future state or habit at a particular time in the future.
 - In ten years time I expect I'll be living in London.
 - And I'll probably be cycling to work.
 - Professor Asher will be giving another lecture at the same time next week.
 - I'll be seeing you one of these days. I expect.

Future Perfect

- The future perfect looks back from a point in the future and refers to indefinite time up to that point.
 - By the time we get there, the film will have started.

This means that at the future time when we get there, we can say: The film has started.

- The builder says he'll have finished the roof by Saturday.
- The car will soon have done 100.000 miles.

Future Perfect Continuous

- We can use the Future Perfect Continuous to say how long something will have continued by a certain time.
 - Next Christmas I'll have been teaching for twenty years.
 - By her fifth birthday she will have been working in the same office.

Summary

Tense	Action	Example
Present Continuous	Pre-planned & near future	He is arriving tonight
Be going to	Intentions & prior arrangements	I am going to wash my hair
Be going to	Prediction based on what we see	Look at those clouds, it's going to rain!
Future simple	With certain verbs: Promise, predict, expect, hope...	I promise I will see her tomorrow
Future simple	With Conditions	If you smoke you' ll never be healthy
Future Simple	Quick decision	Don't worry, I' ll answer the phone
Present Simple	Future time clauses (until, if, when...)	I won't leave until you arrive

Summary

Tense	Action	Example
Future Continuous	Something in progression in the future	At 6 o'clock tonight we will be flying to London
Future Perfect	Something will be finished at a given time in the future	By seven will have landed

Exercises

Choose the most suitable answer.

1. Why a new mountain bike?

a. are you going to buy

b. will you buy

✓ are you going to buy

2. Don't phone between 8.00 and 9.00.
.....then.

a) I'll study

b) I'll be studying

✓ I'll be studying

3. Look out! That tree..... !

a) will fall

b) is going to fall

✓ is going to fall

4. Let me know as soon as Louise Here

a) will get

b) gets

✓ gets

5. Great news! Jean and Christo stay with us.

a) will come

b) are coming

✓ are coming

6. According to this timetable, the bus
.....at 6.00.

a) is going to arrive

b) arrives

✓ arrives

7. I have a feeling that something strange
.....in a minute.

a) is going to happen

b) is happening

✓ is going to happen

8. The doctor says Ia baby!

a) will have

b) am going to have

✓ am going to have

9. Can you call me at 7.00, because
.....tomorrow.

a) I'll leave

b) I'm leaving

✓ I'm leaving

10. If you arrive late at the sale, the best things

..... .

a) will go

b) will have gone

✓ will have gone

11. Larry Soberman..... back until six. Can I take a message?

- a) Won't be
- b) Is not going to be
- c) Isn't
- d) Wasn't
- e) Won't being

✓ Won't be

12. What with the money you won in the lottery?

- a) Will you buy
- b) Are you going to buy
- c) Are you buying
- d) Will you have bought
- e) Will you buying

✓ Are you going to buy

13. I don't think you any problems at the airport.

- a) Will have
- b) Are going to have
- c) Are having
- d) Will be having
- e) Will have had

✓ Will have

14. your dog with you to Ankara ?

- a) Will you take
- b) Are you going to take
- c) Are you taking
- d) Will you be taking
- e) Will have taken

✓ Are you taking * are you going to take

15. Can you answer the phone for me? I
for a while.

- a) Will lie down
- b) Am going to lie down
- c) Will be lying down
- d) Will have lie down
- e) Am lying

✓ Am going to lie down

16. All the hotels are full. Where the night?

- a) Will we spend
- b) Are we going to spend
- c) Are we spending
- d) Will we be spending
- e) Will we have spent

✓ Are we going to spend

16. You'd better not come in July. My mother..... with me then.

- a) Will stay
- b) Are going to stay
- c) Will be staying
- d) Is staying
- e) Will have stayed

✓ Will be staying * Is staying

17. What time ?

- a) Will your plane leave
- b) Does your plane leave
- c) Is your plane leaving
- d) Is your plane going to leave
- e) Will your plane be leaving

✓ Does your plane leave

18. Leave the car here. Maybe the police it.

- a) Will notice
- b) Doesn't notice
- c) Isn't going to notice
- d) Won't be noticing
- e) Won't notice

✓ **Won't notice**

19. By the time we reach home, the rain

- a) Will stop
- b) Is going to stop
- c) Will be stopping
- d) Will have stopped
- e) Is stopping

✓ Will have stopped

20. This time next week I on the beach in Antalya.

- a) Will lie
- b) Is going to lie
- c) Is lying
- d) Will be lying
- e) Will have lean

✓ Will be lying

21. In ten years' time I for a different company.

- a) Will work
- b) Is going to work
- c) Is working
- d) Will be working
- e) Will have worked

✓ Will be working

22. If we don't get there by 5, the teacher

- a) Will leave
- b) Is going to leave
- c) Is leaving
- d) Will be leaving
- e) Will have left

✓ Will have left

23. In July they for twenty years.

- a) Will be married
- b) Is going to be married
- c) Is being married
- d) Will have been married
- e) Will be being married

✓ Will have been married

24. According to computer experts, computers to make accurate predictions about the future.

- a) Will soon be able
- b) is soon going to be able
- c) Will soon being able
- d) Will have been able

✓ Will soon be able

25. Professor Vincent, from Cambridge University,..... a press conference next week to describe the computer which he calls 'Computafuture'.

a) Will hold

b) is going to hold

c) is holding

d) will be holding

✓ Is holding

Am about to /was about to + (verb)

When stating 'I was about to' you are informing someone that you were going to do something, but another event prevented you from doing it. It is **similar to 'I am about to' but the difference is that you will not do it any longer.** Since you will not do it any longer, it becomes a past event. That is why we use 'was' instead of 'am'

You use "I was about to" when you will not be doing something immediately because of some other event.

Reading: THE FUTURE OF BUSINESS: 4 WAYS COMPANIES WILL CHANGE

WHILE WE MAY NOT HAVE A
CRYSTAL BALL, CURRENT
BUSINESS TRENDS POINT TO A
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THAT LOOKS VERY DIFFERENT.

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