Simple Future

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Quick and Handy Grammar Review

THE SIMPLE FUTURE: THREE FORMS

There are three ways to express a future time in English: will + base verb, be going to + base verb, or be + -ing verb. How and when do we use these forms?

A. Will + Base Verb

This form is used when you are deciding future plans at the moment.

For example, if someone invited you to go to a party next Friday, you could answer, “Sure, I will go with you.”

Will + base verb is the most formal way of forming the future tense.

Examples:

- A: Do you two want to go to the movies later?
  B: Sure, we will go.

- She will do whatever her mother tells her to do.

- When you enter the room on Monday, you will see a sign-up sheet on the table.

B. Be Going To + Base Verb

This form is used when plans have already been made in advance.

For example, if you have plans to go camping next weekend and someone asks you what you are going to do, you could answer, “I’m going to go camping next weekend.”

Be going to + base verb is more casual than will + base verb. It is also more common than be + -ing verb.

Examples:

- He is going to study all night for his test.

- They are going to go to Disneyland next spring.

- I am definitely going to call you tomorrow.

Note:
The be verb is conjugated according to the subject (am, are, is).

Pronunciation Note:
Going to sounds like gonna. Use gonna when speaking, but never write gonna!
Quick and Handy Grammar Review cont.

C. Be + -ing Verb

Sometimes English speakers use the present progressive as a future form. It is used the same way as *be going to* (when plans are already made). For example, if you have plans to go camping next weekend and someone asks you what you are going to do, you could answer, “I’m going camping next weekend.”

The present progressive is a casual way of forming the future. It is most often used for the near future (tonight, tomorrow, next weekend, etc.).

Examples:

- My roommate *is going* to Hawaii next weekend.
- We *are planning* to discuss this at the next meeting.
- *I am calling* him back tomorrow after class.

Note:
The *be* verb is conjugated according to the subject (*am, are, is*).

D. Did You Know?

Note #1:
WHAT ARE SOME COMMON FUTURE TIME MARKERS IN ENGLISH?

*Time markers* are words that show the time (past, present, or future) of a sentence in English. Common time markers for the future include:

- tomorrow
- the day after tomorrow
- next (next week, next month, next year, etc.)
- from now (two days from now, three weeks from now, etc.)
- in (in four days, in two months, etc.)
- when (when two future sentences are joined together—see note #2)

Note #2:
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE USE TWO FUTURE VERBS IN THE SAME SENTENCE?

1. English does NOT use a future form twice in most sentences! The *simple future* form is used in the *independent clause* and the *simple present* is used in the *dependent clause*.

2. The order of the clauses can change in a sentence with no difference in meaning, so the best way to know which clause is dependent (and requires a present verb) is to look for the *adverb of time* (when, while, etc.). When a sentence begins with a dependent clause, a *comma* must be used.

3. The verb in the dependent clause is in the simple present tense, so third person singular subjects take a verb ending in *-s*.

Examples:

- He *will call* you when he *arrives* in Las Vegas tomorrow. / When he *arrives* in Las Vegas tomorrow, he *will call* you.
- *We are going to study* for the final exam when my friends *come* over next weekend. / When my friends *come* over next weekend, we *are going to study* for the final exam.
- *She is going to apply* to university when she *graduates*. / When she *graduates*, she *is going to apply* to university.
# Simple Future

## Grammar Practice Worksheets

## Quick and Handy Grammar Review cont.

### E. Quick Review

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Use</th>
<th>Will + base verb</th>
<th>Be going to + base verb</th>
<th>Be + -ing verb (present progressive)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Notes</td>
<td>Use when deciding future plans <em>at the moment</em></td>
<td>Use when future plans <em>have already been made</em></td>
<td>Use when future plans <em>have already been made</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes</td>
<td>Formal future form (preferred in writing; it may be used formally even when plans have already been made)</td>
<td>Casual future form (preferred in speaking; most common form; <em>going to</em> is often reduced to <em>gonna</em>)</td>
<td>Casual future form (preferred in speaking; used especially for the near future)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example</td>
<td>Yes, <em>I will go</em> to the movies with you tonight.</td>
<td><em>He is going to study</em> all weekend for his test.</td>
<td><em>She is giving</em> her presentation tomorrow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example</td>
<td>No, <em>I will not be</em> ready to go at 5:00.</td>
<td><em>They are not going to go</em> to the party because they have school tomorrow.</td>
<td><em>We are not leaving</em> until we get an answer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example</td>
<td><em>Will you call</em> me later?</td>
<td><em>Is she going to read</em> that entire book tonight?</td>
<td><em>Are they coming</em> over for dinner on Friday?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Exercise 1: Fill in the Blanks

WILL

A. Long Form

Write the verb in the future tense with will or will not.

1. My neighbor is sick, so he _______ will not go _______ to work tomorrow morning.
   (go, not)

2. My mom ________________ the lights off at 9:00 pm.
   (turn)

3. I think ________________ home today.
   (walk)

4. Their kids ________________ in the park after dark.
   (play, not)

5. Our teacher ________________ us a quiz next Thursday.
   (give)

6. My husband ________________ you back after he gets out of the shower.
   (call)

7. The movie ________________ at 8:00 pm.
   (start)

8. Her parents ________________ her. They ________________ her instead.
   (text, not) (call)
Exercise 1: Fill in the Blanks cont.

B. Short Form

Now try using contractions.
Use ‘ll instead of will and won’t instead of will not.

1. My friend ________ won’t go ________ to the doctor’s next week because she is feeling better.
   (go, not)

2. I ________ some coffee, please.
   (have)

3. He ________ video games after school.
   (play)

4. The children ________ books that are too difficult.
   (read, not)

5. We ________ dinner at 7:00 pm.
   (eat)

6. I ________ for my test tonight because I’m sick.
   (study, not)

7. She ________ the guitar on Saturday morning.
   (practice)

8. She ________ the flowers in a few minutes.
   (water)

Did You Know?

The abbreviation ‘ll is common with pronouns (’ll, you’ll, he’ll, she’ll, it’ll, we’ll, they’ll). The abbreviation won’t is common with all pronouns and nouns.
Exercise 2: Fortune-Telling

WILL

A. Write Fortunes

Write five fortunes with will and five with won’t.

Ex. You will live until you’re 100 years old.

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 

Ex. You won’t break any bones this year.

6. 
7. 
8. 
9. 
10. 

B. Be a Fortune-Teller

Next, ask a classmate to choose a number between 1 and 10.
Read out the fortune you wrote in Part A for that number, and then pick a number and listen to your classmate’s fortune for you! Repeat with all your classmates.

Example:

A: Choose a number between 1 and 10.
B: Number 8.
A: You won’t eat vegetables for dinner.
B: Oh, good. I don’t like vegetables! Now you can choose a number.
A: Number 3.
B: You will win the lottery!
A: Awesome!
Exercise 3: Choose the Verb

BE GOING TO

A. Long Form

Choose the correct word from the list on the right to complete the following sentences. Use the correct form of the future tense with be going to. Use am, are, or is. Do not use contractions in this exercise.

Word List:
- wear
- email
- give
- change
- clean
- practice
- hang

1. My brother sent me an email yesterday. I __________ am going to email __________ him back tomorrow.
2. My house is very dirty. I ________________ it tomorrow.
3. Miriam is going to a party next Saturday. She ________________ her new red dress.
4. Robert bought a new painting at the art show. He ________________ it over the sofa in his living room.
5. The hockey championship is next month. The boys ________________ every night next week.
6. It’s our parents’ anniversary tomorrow. We ________________ them a gift certificate to a popular restaurant.
7. My car has a flat tire. My brother ________________ it later today.

B. Short Form

Choose the correct verb from the list on the right to complete the following sentences. Use the contracted form of the future tense with be going to. Use ’m, ’re, or ’s.

Word List:
- get
- take
- ask
- study
- visit
- quit
- exchange

1. We have a math exam in three days. We __________ ’re going to study __________ very hard for it.
2. It’s very cold and rainy outside. I ________________ a nice, hot bath as soon as I get home from this soccer game.
3. Ellie has a hair appointment this afternoon. She ________________ her hair cut and colored.
4. Jack hates his job. He ________________ next week.
5. Sue got a sweater from her mother-in-law for her birthday. It didn’t fit, so she ________________ it for a larger size.
6. Sam just got his driver’s license. He ________________ his father to let him borrow the car next weekend.
7. Their grandmother is in the hospital. They ________________ her next weekend.
Exercise 4: What’s Going to Happen?

BE GOING TO

Read the following sentences and add another one using your own ideas. Try to write some positive sentences using be + going + to + verb and some negative sentences using be + not + going + to + verb. Use contractions.

Ex. She has a bad toothache.

She’s going to call the dentist. OR She’s not going to eat an apple.

1. He doesn’t understand the meaning of that word.

2. She wants to see that new movie but doesn’t know what time it starts.

3. Bill doesn’t want to change jobs.

4. Grandma feels very tired.

5. Carla is baking a cake and just ran out of sugar.

6. John doesn’t need to go to work today.

7. Rhonda and Murray are thinking about taking a holiday but don’t know where to go.

8. Someone stole our car last night.

9. Margaret gained 10 pounds in the past month.
Exercise 5: Goal-Setting

BE GOING TO

A. My Goals

What are some goals that you have? Get into small groups. First, write down five personal goals, and then share them with your group members.

Ex. 1. I'm going to be a pilot.
Ex. 2. I'm going to learn how to skateboard.
Ex. 3. I'm going to travel to Europe next summer.

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 

B. My Group’s Goals

Now write down one interesting goal from each member of your group.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classmate</th>
<th>Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michelle</td>
<td>She’s going to learn Japanese.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Exercise 6: Questions & Answers

**WILL, BE GOING TO & PRESENT PROGRESSIVE**

#### A. Reference

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WILL</th>
<th>Short Answers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Will you pass the test?</td>
<td>Yes, I will. No, I won't.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will he do his homework tonight?</td>
<td>Yes, he will. No, he won't.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will they finish school on time?</td>
<td>Yes, they will. No, they won't.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BE GOING TO</th>
<th>Short Answers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Are you going to clean your room this weekend?</td>
<td>Yes, I am. No, I'm not.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is she going to go to the park after school?</td>
<td>Yes, she is. No, she isn't. No, she's not.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are they going to buy a new car?</td>
<td>Yes, they are. No, they aren't. No, they're not.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRESENT PROGRESSIVE</th>
<th>Short Answers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Are you going to Spain next fall?</td>
<td>Yes, I am. No, I'm not.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is he visiting his grandparents tomorrow?</td>
<td>Yes, he is. No, he isn't. No, he's not.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are they getting a new pet?</td>
<td>Yes, they are. No, they aren't. No, they're not.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Short Answers

Write a short answer for each question using the word in parentheses.

1. Are you going snowboarding next weekend? (no)  
   No, I'm not.

2. Is she going to call you tonight? (no)

3. Will you be ready for the quiz tomorrow morning? (yes)

4. Are they going to go to that new restaurant? (no)

5. Is he planning to see a movie on Friday? (yes)

6. Will he join us for dinner? (no)

7. Will we finish our project on time? (yes)

8. Are you going to wash your car soon? (yes)

Now write three future questions to ask your partner using will, be going to, and the present progressive.

1. _____________________________________________

2. _____________________________________________

3. _____________________________________________

C. Questions and Answers

Practice making questions and giving short answers.

1. I’m going to buy a new car.
   Are you going to buy a new car?
   Yes, I am.

2. They won’t be at school tomorrow.

3. I’m not going to call him back this afternoon.

4. We’re going to visit our aunt next summer.

5. He’s not going to Hawaii next month.

6. She is going to graduate next spring.

7. They will bring their notes to the meeting tomorrow morning.

8. He’s having a party on Friday.
Exercise 7: Pair Work (Student A)

BE GOING TO

A. Sarah’s Schedule

Here is your friend Sarah’s schedule, but it is missing some information. Ask your partner about the missing plans and fill in the schedule. Practice saying “gonna” instead of “going to.”

Example:
A: What is Sarah going to do on Monday evening?
B: She is going to go to a movie with Dave.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
<th>Sunday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>morning</td>
<td></td>
<td>meet with boss</td>
<td>attend conference</td>
<td>clean apartment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>afternoon</td>
<td>buy groceries</td>
<td>go to gym</td>
<td>buy food for party</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>take nephew to the zoo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>evening</td>
<td>do work reports</td>
<td>do the ironing</td>
<td>party</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. My Schedule

Now answer the questions about yourself in complete sentences with be going to.

1. What are you going to do next Monday afternoon?

2. What are you going to do next Wednesday evening?

3. What are you going to do next Friday morning?

4. What are you going to do next Saturday evening?

5. What are you going to do next Sunday morning?
Exercise 7: Pair Work (Student B)

BE GOING TO

A. Sarah’s Schedule

Here is your friend Sarah’s schedule, but it is missing some information. Ask your partner about the missing plans and fill in the schedule. Practice saying “gonna” instead of “going to.”

Example:
A: What is Sarah going to do on Monday evening?
B: She is going to go to a movie with Dave.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
<th>Sunday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>morning</td>
<td>doctor’s appointment</td>
<td>return library books</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>go to gym</td>
<td>visit grandmother</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>afternoon</td>
<td>go to gym</td>
<td></td>
<td>attend conference</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>cook, prepare for party</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>evening</td>
<td>movie with Dave</td>
<td>dinner with girlfriends</td>
<td>dinner with parents</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>relax at home</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. My Schedule

Now answer the questions about yourself in complete sentences with be going to.

1. What are you going to do next Monday afternoon?

2. What are you going to do next Wednesday evening?

3. What are you going to do next Friday morning?

4. What are you going to do next Saturday evening?

5. What are you going to do next Sunday morning?
Exercise 8: Will or Be Going To?

WILL VS. BE GOING TO

Complete the following sentences using the correct form of will or be going to with the verb provided. Use contractions whenever possible. Be prepared to explain the reason for your choice.

Ex. 1. A: Can you come to my party tomorrow?  
   B: Sure, I ____________________________ !  
   "Will" is used when making a decision at the moment.

Ex. 2. Next summer, she ____________________________ to Japan.  
   "Be going to" is used when plans are already made.

1. Sam feels sick. He knows that he ____________________________ home from work tomorrow.  
   (stay)

2. I can’t go out for dinner because I ____________________________ my homework.  
   (finish)

3. A: I left my wallet at home.  
   B: That’s okay. I ____________________________ you some money.  
   (lend)

4. I don’t think I ____________________________ able to come to your party.  
   (be)

5. Frank ____________________________ a two-week holiday next year.  
   (take)

6. That box looks very heavy. I ____________________________ you carry it.  
   (help)

7. I bought some paint because I ____________________________ my apartment.  
   (paint)

8. He ____________________________ a black tuxedo to the wedding. What ____________________________ you ____________________________ ?  
   (wear)  (wear)

9. A: Why did you take the sugar out of the cupboard?  
   B: I ____________________________ a cake.  
   (bake)

10. They took money out of the bank because they ____________________________ a new TV for their daughter.  
   (buy)
Exercise 8: Will or Be Going To? cont.

11. It’s very hot in here. I _______________________ the window for you.
   (open)

12. The weatherman says it _____________________ a beautiful day tomorrow,
   (be)
   so I think I _________________________ to the beach.
   (go)

13. We probably _________________________ to the party next weekend.
   (not/go)

14. A: Can I please talk to the manager?
    B: He _________________________ with you in a moment.
    (be)

15. The Andersons went to the travel agency yesterday. They _________________________ their tickets tomorrow.
    (buy)

16. We _________________________ that new movie tonight. Do you want to come with us?
    (see)

17. Allan _________________________ up early tomorrow so that he can go fishing.
    (get)

18. Okay, I _________________________ you move tomorrow.
    (help)

19. A: Do you have any holiday plans?
    B: Yes. We _________________________ a Mediterranean cruise.
    (take)

20. A: Ronnie can't drive me to the airport.
    B: That's okay. I _________________________ you.
    (take)
Exercise 9: Travel Plans

WILL VS. BE GOING TO

A. Fill in the Blanks

Complete the dialogue by writing in the correct future verb. Do not use contractions. Use will if someone is making the decision right now. Use be going to if the plans were already made before.

Kate: Hi, David! I heard you ______________ to Australia! When _____ you ______________?

David: Hey, Kate! I ______________ in two weeks.

Kate: Wow! You ______________ an amazing experience.

David: I hope so. I'm not sure if I should start packing now. What do you think?

Kate: I think it's better to get organized as soon as possible.

David: You're right. I ______________ packing tonight.

Kate: That's a good idea. So what _____ you ______________ first?

David: I ______________ to the Sydney Opera House.

Kate: Good idea!

David: Maybe I ______________ the Harbour Bridge while I'm there.

Kate: Wow. I really want to go to Australia too.

David: Why don't you join me? Say you ______________!

Kate: Really? Okay! Maybe I ______________ with you!

B. Pair Work 1

Read the dialogue aloud with a partner. Change the verbs into contractions (the short form) whenever possible. Remember to pronounce “going to” as “gonna.”

C. Pair Work 2

Now choose any place in the world and imagine you are going there. Where will you go? What are you going to do while you're there? Discuss your travel plans with a partner.
Exercise 10: Future Time Clauses

WILL & BE GOING TO

Did You Know?
In future sentences with two clauses, both will and be going to are correct in the independent clause. Will is formal and be going to is casual. Try using both forms in this exercise.

Did You Remember?
You must use the simple future tense in the independent clause and the simple present tense in a dependent clause. Dependent clauses begin with words such as when, before, after, as soon as, and until.

Did You Remember?
If a sentence begins with a dependent clause, it must be followed by a comma.

Complete the following sentences with the correct future form of the verb provided. Underline the dependent clause in each sentence.

Ex. She ______ will eat ______ before she ______ leaves ______ for work.

1. I’m going to eat lunch at 12:30. After I ______ lunch, I ______ a nap.

2. As soon as it ______ raining, I ______ to the store.

3. I ______ you this book as soon as I ______ it.

4. He ______ this letter before he ______ stamps.

5. When the class ______ over, Marilyn ______ shopping.

6. They ______ many museums when they ______ to Europe.

7. When the chairman ______, everyone ______ down.

8. After they ______ their homework, they ______ TV.
Exercise 10: Future Time Clauses cont.

9. She ________________ a hot bath as soon as she ________________ home.
   (take) (get)

10. I ________________ you back the money I borrowed as soon as I ________________ my paycheck.
    (pay) (get)

11. He ________________ home until he ________________ better.
    (stay) (feel)

12. We ________________ birthday cake after we ________________ dinner.
    (have) (finish)

13. As soon as she ________________ here, we ________________ dinner.
    (get) (eat)

14. She ________________ the clothes after she ________________ them.
    (iron) (wash)

15. I ________________ you until I ________________
    (love) (die)

16. I ________________ for a new passport before I ________________ a ticket.
    (apply) (buy)
Exercise 11: Multiple Choice

WILL, BE GOING TO & PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

Circle the correct answer.

1. The girl _____ to the mall after school.
   a) is going to go
   b) will goes
   c) is going to going

2. My grandparents _____ us next weekend.
   a) will visiting
   b) are visiting
   c) are going to visit

3. She _____ her dog to the vet today.
   a) will taking
   b) will take
   c) will takes

4. I _____ for Disneyland in three days.
   a) are leaving
   b) is leaving
   c) am leaving

5. He will go sightseeing when he _____ in Thailand.
   a) will arrives
   b) arrives
   c) is going to arrive

6. There _____ a test on Friday.
   a) is being
   b) is being to be
   c) will be

7. The kids _____ well after all that physical activity.
   a) are going to sleep
   b) is going to sleep
   c) am going to sleep

8. They _____ their lunch because they aren’t hungry.
   a) won’t eat
   b) will eat not
   c) is not eating

9. _____ join the game?
   a) Are you
   b) Are you going
   c) Are you going to

10. When we _____ to a new city next month, we will meet new people.
    a) will move
    b) move
    c) are move
## Exercise 12: Find Someone Who

**WILL, BE GOING TO & PRESENT PROGRESSIVE**

Interview your classmates. Walk around the class and find someone...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Find someone...</th>
<th>Classmate’s name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>who is going to visit a friend tonight.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>who will probably leave the city this weekend.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>who isn’t going to watch TV tonight.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>who's going to walk home from school today.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>who is getting a hair cut this week.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>who won’t have a birthday next month.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>who thinks it’ll be a nice day tomorrow.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>who is going to buy a present for someone this week.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>who's buying groceries after school today.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>who will have something to eat as soon as the class finishes.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>