

# The modal verb will

## Use

We often use will ...

- when we're making predictions:  
In the future, people **will retire** at 70.  
Chinese **will become** an important language for business.
- when we're deciding something at the moment of speaking:  
A: It's raining.  
B: Then I'll **take** an umbrella.
- to make offers and promises:  
I'll **do** it for you.  
We'll **give** you a lift.
- in sentences with *if* (see notes on conditionals page, 171):  
If you walk more, you'll **feel** refreshed.

## Form

<b>Affirmative sentences</b> Use <i>will</i> (or <i>'ll</i> ) + the base form of the verb. There is no special <i>he/she/it</i> form.	<i>I'll see you on Friday.</i> <i>She will take questions at the end of her speech.</i>
<b>Negative sentences</b> Use <i>won't</i> ( <i>will + not</i> ).	<i>He won't be here for at least half an hour.</i>
<b>Questions</b> Change the word order.	<i>What time will he get here?</i>
<b>Short answers</b> Use <i>will/won't</i> .	<i>Will it work? Yes, it will. / No, it won't.</i>

# Future possibility modals

## Use

We use *may*, *might* and *could* to talk about future possibilities. They indicate actions are possible but not certain:

*I may be late. / I might be late. / I could be late.* (It's a possibility.)

We also use *could* to say things are possible and we often use it to make suggestions:

*We could call his mobile and see if he answers.*

## Form

<i>May/might/could</i> have no special third person form.	<i>I may need some help.</i> <i>She might not get here in time.</i> <i>We could ask Sally if she's free.</i>
We generally use <i>might</i> in negative sentences and questions about future possibilities.	<i>She might not get here on time.</i> <i>What problems might we have?</i>