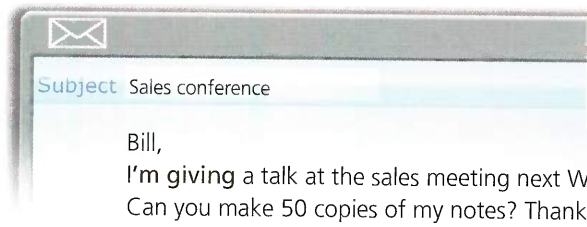
59 Future with present continuous and present simple



Bill,
I'm giving a talk at the sales meeting next Wednesday. It starts at 9.30.
Can you make 50 copies of my notes? Thanks,
Ted

SALES MEETING – Wednesday 26 Jan
09.30 Ted Conti – Opportunities in Ch
and the Far East
11.00 Coffee

1 Present continuous

We use the present continuous to talk about things that we have already arranged to do:
*I'**m giving** a talk at the sales meeting next Wednesday.*
*David sent me a text message. He's **meeting** us at six o'clock.*
*'What **are** you **doing** this weekend?' 'I'**m going** to the theatre.'*

We usually give the time/period or date:
*I'm seeing the dentist **at half-past eleven on Thursday**.*

NATURAL ENGLISH We often use the present continuous to give the reason why we can't do something in the future:
'Can you come to lunch on Sunday?'
*'I'm afraid I can't come. I'**m working** on Sunday.'*

Form and use of the present continuous ➤ Unit 39

January
26 WEDNESDAY
talk at sales meeting
27 THURSDAY
11.30 dentist
28 FRIDAY
29 SATURDAY
theatre
30 SUNDAY
working

2 Present simple

We can use the present simple with a time or date to talk about future events that are on a timetable or programme:
*The train **leaves** London at 10.25 and **arrives** in Bristol at 11.50. It **stops** in Swindon at 11.15.*

*'When **do** your classes **finish**?'*
*'They **finish** on December the 5th.'*

London	Swindon	Bristol
10.25	11.15	11.50
11.50	12.35	13.05

⚠ We don't use the present simple for things we have arranged to do; we use the present continuous or *going to*:
✗ ~~*We meet our friends this evening.*~~ ✓ *We'**re meeting** our friends this evening.*

Form and use of the present simple ➤ Unit 37

3 *after, when, as soon as,* etc.

We use the present simple not *will* to talk about the future after *when, as soon as, before, after* and *until*:

⚠
✗ ~~*As soon as I will get there I'll phone you.*~~ ✓ ***As soon as** I **get** there, I'll phone you.*
✗ ~~*I'll see you when I'll arrive.*~~ ✓ *I'll see you **when** I **arrive**.*

Linking words for future time ➤ Unit 94.2