

44 Present simple with future meaning



1 Fixed future events

We often use the present simple with a time or date to talk about future events on a timetable or fixed programme:

*The Dallas flight **arrives** at 9.45. Our next meeting **is** at 11.00 on Thursday.*

*Does the tour bus **stop** in Ronda? Do we **get back** to the hotel by 6.00?*

We can use *will* in the same way: 'When **do/will** your classes **finish**?' 'The last one **will be/is** on December 5th.'

We also use the present simple or *will* to talk about definite arrangements and things we can't change: 'What sort of party **is it/will it be**?' 'It's/It'll **be** a fancy dress party.'

*New Year's Day **falls/will fall** on a Thursday next year.*

! When we are talking about personal arrangements we use the present continuous or *going to*, not the present simple:

*X We **meet** our friends at the cinema this evening.*

*✓ We're **meeting** our friends at the cinema this evening*

2 after, when, as soon as, etc.

We use the present simple to talk about future events after *when*, *as soon as*, *before*, *after*, *once* and *until*:

*I won't be able to use my phone **until** the plane **lands**. But **as soon as** I get there, I'll phone you.*

*I'll send you a text message **once** the parcel **arrives**.*

We can also use the present perfect after these expressions when we are talking about a completed action:

*I'll tell you what it's like **after** I've **seen** it.*

*We'll come down to reception **as soon as** we've **unpacked** our suitcases.*

*Don't leave **until** you've **spoken** to the manager.*

! We don't use *will* (or the present continuous for future meaning) after these expressions:

*X I'll see you **when** I'll **arrive**.*

*✓ I'll see you **when** I **arrive**.*

*X **As soon as** I will get there I'll phone you.*

*✓ **As soon as** I get there, I'll phone you.*

*X I'll phone you **after** I'm **arriving**.*

*✓ I'll phone you **after** I **arrive**.*

More on these linking words ➤ Unit 82.1

Form and present tense uses of the present simple ➤ Unit 27