

Present continuous

8 Read the information about the present continuous in the box.

The present continuous has a present time reference (see *Grammar and practice 4* page 124).

It also has a future time reference: to talk about fixed arrangements.

The fixed arrangements are often social arrangements and appointments.

There is usually a time phrase.

I'm seeing my bank manager at 11:30 next Tuesday.

Now complete the text by putting the verbs into the correct form of the present continuous.

'I _____ (fly) to Paris on Thursday morning. Louis and Isabelle _____ (come) from Lyons to join us. We _____ (give) a presentation about the merger to institutional investors on Friday morning, at the offices of BNP Paribas.'

will or going to?

9 Read the information in the box.

Often either *will* or *going to* are possible, and you could use both in the same situation. However there are some small differences that can influence your choice.

Predictions:

- *Will* is more likely if the prediction is based on the speaker's thoughts and opinions.
- *Going to* is more likely if the prediction is based on evidence in the present situation.

Decisions:

- *Will* is more likely if the decision is spontaneous, made at the moment of speaking.
- *Going to* is more likely if the decision has been made previously, and so now it is a plan.

Now underline the form in **bold** that is more likely (but remember that both are possible).

- 1 Have you heard the news? Citibank **will make** / **are going to make** a bid for Tatra Banka.
- 2 The UK **will probably start** / **is probably going to start** using the euro eventually.
- 3 If you're busy, **I'll come back** / **I'm going to come back** later.
- 4 I was talking with my friends yesterday - **we'll go** / **we're going to go** skiing in the Alps.

going to or present continuous?

Read the information in the box.

Going to and the present continuous are both used for plans and arrangements. Nearly always both are possible in the same situation.

Going to is slightly more likely if it's just a plan.

The present continuous is slightly more likely if the arrangement is fixed, with a time and a place.

I'm going to see my bank manager next week.

I'm seeing my bank manager at 11:30 next Tuesday.

Expressing likelihood

10 Use these expressions to complete the sentences below. Match the expressions in the box with the degree of probability in brackets.

it's almost certain to it's likely to it might
it might just it will definitely
there's no way it will there's not much chance it will

- 1 (100%) _____ be a success.
- 2 (90%) _____ be a success.
- 3 (70%) _____ be a success.
- 4 (50%) _____ be a success.
- 5 (20%) _____ be a success.
- 6 (10%) _____ be a success.
- 7 (0%) _____ be a success.

11 Rewrite each sentence with one of these words so that the probability changes as shown in brackets.

almost definitely definitely fully
good highly just

- 1 There's a chance the merger will go ahead. (50%→70%)
There's a good chance the merger will go ahead.
- 2 The merger will go ahead. (100%→100% with emphasis)
- 3 The merger won't go ahead. (0%→0% with emphasis)
- 4 The merger might go ahead. (50%→20%)
- 5 The merger is certain to go ahead. (100%→90%)
- 6 It's likely the merger will go ahead. (70%→90%)
- 7 We expect the merger to go ahead. (70%→90%)

12 Write *T* (true) or *F* (false) after each statement.

- 1 The three alternatives in **bold** below all have approximately the same meaning.
*The merger **may/might/could** go ahead.*
- 2 The three alternatives in italics below all have approximately the same meaning.
*The merger **may not/might not/could not** go ahead.*
- 3 The two alternatives in italics below have approximately the same meaning.
*The merger **should/is likely to** go ahead.*