

6 New business

will do (future simple)

1 Match the main uses of will 1–5 with examples a–e.

- 1 simple fact about the future
- 2 prediction, often with *I think*, etc.
- 3 decision made at the moment of speaking
- 4 promise
- 5 offer

- a) Are you going to use UPS to deliver the package? I think it'll be cheaper to use DHL.
- b) We'll be closed for one week over the Christmas period.
- c) Don't worry, I'll be at the airport to meet you.
- d) Will you stay for lunch?
- e) Do we need more copies of the agenda? No problem, I'll photocopy them right now.

The uses of *will* given above often overlap (eg decisions and promises), but it is helpful to remember that there are two basic categories:

- *Will* used for information about the future (1 and 2 above).
- *Will* used for social and functional language (3, 4 and 5 above). This includes announcing decisions, giving refusals (*won't*), making promises and making offers. In these cases, *will* generally expresses 'willingness' or a strong intention.

will be doing (future continuous)

2 Read the notes in the box then do the exercise below.

- The future continuous is formed with *will be + -ing* form of the verb.
- All the continuous tenses are used for an 'action in progress'. The future continuous is no different. Compare:

Past continuous

While I was at University I was working part-time in a restaurant.

Present continuous

At the moment I'm working part-time in a restaurant. I hope to get a proper job soon.

Future continuous

Next year I'm going to London to learn English. I'll be working part-time in the same restaurant where my friend works now.

- The future continuous often refers to the middle of an action. Compare:
When you arrive we'll have the meeting.
(You will arrive and then we will start the meeting)
When you arrive we'll be having the meeting.
(You will arrive in the middle of the meeting)
- The future continuous is often used to show that something is definite. Compare:
I'll speak to her tomorrow. (decision, or promise)
I'll be speaking to her tomorrow. (definite fact)
I'm going to speak to her tomorrow. (intention)
- The future continuous can be used to ask in a polite way about other people's plans:
Will you be passing a post box on your way home?
How long will you be using the photocopier?

- Remember that there are no 'rules' for any future tense – just forms that are more common than others in certain circumstances.

Complete each sentence using the most appropriate form of the verb in brackets: either *will* or the future continuous. Use contractions.

- 1 If you give me the job of team leader, I _____ (work) night and day to make the project a success.
- 2 I can't go to the cinema on Saturday afternoon – I _____ (work) all day Saturday.
- 3 We _____ (launch) our new range of clothes at the end of March.
- 4 Yes, that's a great idea! We _____ (launch) our new range of clothes with an event featuring a footballer and a top model.
- 5 If you see me at the party tomorrow, I _____ (wear) my little black dress.
- 6 What shall I wear at the party tomorrow? I know! I _____ (wear) my little black dress.
- 7 No, I _____ (not/give) any more time to writing this assignment. It's good enough as it is.
- 8 I'll be at the conference, but I _____ (not/give) a talk this year.
- 9 This time tomorrow I _____ (sit) on an airplane somewhere over the Pacific.
- 10 Don't worry about your bag and coat while you go to the bathroom. I _____ (sit) here until you come back.

Check your answers before doing the next exercise.

3 In the previous exercise, the *will* form was most appropriate in sentences 1, 4, 6, 7 and 10. Write one of these numbers in each box:

a decision and an offer
a promise a refusal

The future continuous form was most appropriate in sentences 2, 3, 5, 8 and 9. Write one of these numbers in each box.

referring to an action in progress
referring to the middle of an action and
showing that something is definite and

4 Rewrite these questions about people's plans using the future continuous.

- 1 Are you joining us in the bar later?
_____ in the bar later?
- 2 Are you going to speak to your boss tomorrow?
_____ to your boss tomorrow?
- 3 Will you visit Moscow again next year?
_____ Moscow again next year?

The future continuous in these cases is more polite. It suggests 'I just want to know your plans – I don't want to put any pressure on you.'