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Future forms

Before you start

1 Review these intermediate grammar points and check you know them.

Future forms and uses

FORM		EXAMPLES
future simple: will/won't + infinitive	general prediction	I bet we'll still be in this house in twenty years' time. Who will win the election?
	future facts	Next year will be a leap year.
	decision made at the time of speaking	Oh, our guests are here. I'll sort out some drinks and nibbles.
be going to + infinitive	prediction based on present evidence	Kate Atkinson's new book has already sold thousands of copies; it's going to be a bestseller.
	intention (personal or impersonal)	Is the management going to accept the current pay claim?
present continuous	arrangements	Next year we're working on a joint project with the Frankfurt office.
future continuous: will/won't be + -ing form	prediction of an action in progress	By next July the economy will be growing at a healthy rate once more.
	plans made in the past	I can't make next Monday's class as I'll be returning from my long weekend away.
	events that are part of a routine	The committee will be meeting at the usual time on Friday.
future perfect: will/won't have + past participle	prediction about a completed action in the future	Will you have discussed this with your boss before you go to the conference?
present simple	an event that is part of a timetable	The lecture starts tomorrow evening at 8.00 p.m.
	after certain expressions of time, e.g. as soon as	We will send you the books you ordered as soon as we receive payment.

Using shall, shan't

- **1** The use of *shall/shan't* with *I* and *we* in the future simple is becoming dated and is rare now:
 - Having learnt on an automatic car, I shall never get the hang of this manual gearbox.
- **2** Shall is common in the question form as an offer or a suggestion: 'I can't get this tin open.' 'Shall I do it for you?' Shall we go out tonight?



We do not use *shall/shan't* with *he, she, it, you, they* for predictions: ★ He shall like the idea, I'm sure. ✓ He will like the idea, I'm sure.