

Use of the future in English

Just like with the present and past tenses in English, there are implications in the different futures.

When talking about future events, we basically have two choices for the simple future:

Will and 'going to'

GRAMMAR: Future(s) and adverbs

1. Will / will not (won't) - simple future

Form: "will" + base verb

- the simple future tense in English is expressed with 'will'
- 'will' is a modal verb
- the contraction of the negative form of will (will not) is won't

The simple future tense is used in the following situations:

- a possibility or probability in the future
example: We'll probably go to the seaside this summer.
- a spontaneous decision about the future
example: - Could you help me please? - I'll see what I can do.
- "if / when clauses: future + present simple tense (hypothetical situations)
example: - What will you do if it rains? - If it rains, I'll stay home.

2. "GOING TO" - intention/planned future

Form: "to be" (simple present tense) + "going to" + base verb

- This form is used to express a planned action/event in the future:
- (cio'è, è già nel programma)

I'm going to go dancing. (Ho già programmato di andare ballare).

What are you going to do for the holidays? (What have you planned to do for your holidays?)

I'm going to go to Spain. (Ho già pianificato di andare in Spagna).

We're going to go to the Canary Islands. (Our intention is to go to the Canary Islands.)

We're going to go to Spain this summer. (It's already planned; we have our tickets, etc.)

I'm going to study at the University of Turin next year. (I registered last week, etc.)

We're going to have roast beef for dinner this evening. (I bought the meat this morning and I'm cooking it now.)

In addition, there is the **future perfect** (see explanation on perfect tenses) and an 'expression' that corresponds to when you use the simple present in Italian when you speak about the future, to connote that you consider the future event as a 'sure thing', in which case in English you would use the **present continuous** tense:

Domani vado al cinema. (E' sicuro!) – Tomorrow I'm going to the cinema.

Domani studio! (E' sicuro) – Tomorrow I'm studying.

PRESENT CONTINUOUS FOR THE FUTURE (una sicurezza)

Form: "to be" (simple present tense) + gerund of verb (-ing ending)

- The present continuous is used to refer to the future when you wish to emphasize a certainty in the future.
- The present continuous referring to the future corresponds to the simple present tense used to refer to the future in Italian:

Cosa *fai* domani? Domani *mi sposo*!
married!

What are you doing tomorrow? Tomorrow I'm getting

Domani *non faccio niente*!
faccio niente.)

Tomorrow I'm not doing anything! (E' sicuro che non