Faculty of Letters and Foreign Languages

Department of Language and English Literature

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Module: Grammar

Level: Second Year (All groups)

Lesson: Future Tenses

### 1. Be going of future Vs Will+ infinitive

■ The *be going to* form always implies a premeditated intention, (an intention + plan).

• The *will+ infinitive* implies intention alone.

I have bought some bricks and I'm going to build a garage.

What are you doing with that spade? –l am going to plant some apple trees.

She has bought some wool; she is going to knit a jumper.

Why are you taking down all the pictures? ~ 1 am going to repaper the room.

Some workmen arrived today with a roller. I think they are going to repair our road.

Why is he carrying his guitar? - He is going to play it in the Underground.

There is somebody at the hall door. - I'll go and open it.

This is a terribly heavy box. ~ I'll help you to carry it.

I've left my watch upstairs. ~ I'll go and get if for you.

Who will post this letter/or me? ~ I will.

Will you lend me £100?  $\sim$  No, I won't.

• The be going to form can express the speaker's feeling of certainty. The time is usually not mentioned, but the action is expected to happen in the *near or immediate* future:

Look at those clouds' It's going to rain.

Listen to the wind. We 're going to have a rough crossing.

It can be used in this way after such verbs as be sure, believe, think: e.g., How pale that girl is! I am sure/I believe/I think she is going to faint.

Comparison of be going to (used for prediction) with will (used for probable future) :

will is a common way of expressing what the speaker thinks, believes, hopes, assumes, fears etc.

It will probably be cold/I expect it will be cold.

Tomatoes will be expensive this year.

It will take a long time to photocopy all the documents = It is going to take a long time to photocopy all the documents.

- be going to implies that there are signs that something will certainly happen
- be going to is normally used about the immediate/fairly immediate future
- The lift is going to break down implies that it is making strange noises or behaving in a strange way; we had better get out on the next floor.
- He is going to get better implies that there are signs of recovery (temperature has gone down)
- will implies that the speaker thinks that it will happen
- Will doesn't imply any particular time and could refer to the remote future.
- The lift will break down implies that this will happen sometime in the future
- He will get better implies eventual promises rather than immediate recovery.

- If Ann says: Where is the telephone book? and Tom says I'll get it for you he is expressing a decision made immediately after Ann's question. If he said I'm going to get it, it would mean that he had decided to do this before Ann spoke (presumably because he had anticipated that Ann would want it, or needed it for himself).
- Note that in an if-clause or a time clause we don't use the future simple even when the meaning is future: e.g., *He will probably be late but If he is late......*
- "won't" can be used with all persons to express negative intention. So He won't pay can mean either He refuses to pay or I don't think he 'll pay. I/we will can express affirmative intention, but he/you/they will do not normally express intention. They may appear to do so sometimes in such sentences as: "My son/brother/husband..... will help you, but the intention may be the speaker's rather than the subject's.
- will contrasted with want/wish/would like: will must not be confused with want/wish/would like

Will = an intention + a decision to fulfill it: I will buy it = I intend to buy it/I'm going to buy it. want/wish/would like merely expresses a desire. They **do not** give any information about intended actions.

• *however*, that **I'd like** is often a possible alternative to **I'll have/take**:

CUSTOMER (in a shop): I'd like/I'll have a pound of peas, please.

DINER (in a restaurant): I'd like/I'll have the soup, please.

Both can be used for invitations: would you like a drink? / will you have a drink?

Accepting the invitation: I'd like/I'll have a sherry, please. (both are correct).

• But the two forms **are not interchangeable in the negative**, so if we wish to **refuse** an invitation we must say: I won't have anything, thanks or I don't want anything, thanks.

"I wouldn't like" means 'would dislike', so could not be used here (irrelevant).

# 1.1. Will Vs Shall

Shall is used	Will is used
<ul> <li>When there is no intention.</li> </ul>	■ To express intention.
We shall know the results next week.	We will attend your lecture tomorrow.
I shall be 25 next week.	I will come back.
I shall see Tom tomorrow.	I will see Tom tomorrow.
<ul> <li>In question tags after let's: Let's go, shall we</li> </ul>	■ To express expectations, thoughts, opinions,
■ In suggestions: Shall we take a taxi?	and used after verbs like assume, believe, doubt,
• In requests for orders or instructions:	expect, hope, reckon, suppose, be sure/afraid and with
What shall I do with your mail?	adverbs like perhaps, possibly, probably, definitely.
■ In speculations: Where shall we be this time	I expect they will be here soon
next year?	Do you think she will bring her boyfriend?
■ In promises:	■ To make formal announcements of future
I shall be there, I promise you.(will = shall here)	plans and to present weather forecasts. It is hence
	often used in TV and radio
	■ To express an intention when the decision is
	made at the time of speaking.
	A: There isn't any milk left/B: Oh, isn't there? I'll bring
	Some in town
	■ To express:
	I'll do it for you, I promise (promise)
	Will you open the window, please? (request)
	I'll look after the children for you (offer)
	He won't come with me (refusal)
	Yes, I'll come with you (agreement)
	I'll definitely tell him the truth this time (determination)
	Stop that or I'll call the police (threat)

#### 2. The Future Continuous Tense

# • The future continuous used as an ordinary continuous tense:

Like other continuous tenses, it is normally used with a point in time, and expresses an action which starts before that time and probably continues after it.

Imagine a class of students at this moment - 9.30 a.m. We might say:

Now they are sitting in their classroom. They are listening to a tape. This time tomorrow they will be sitting in the cinema. They will be watching a film. On Saturday there is no class. So on Saturday they will not be sitting in the classroom. They will be doing other things. Bill will be playing tennis. Ann will be shopping. George will still be having breakfast.

## • The future continuous used to express future without intention:

The future continuous tense usually implies an action which will occur in the normal course of events. It is therefore **less** definite and more casual than the present continuous (deliberate future actions)

I am seeing Tom tomorrow.

I'll be seeing Tom tomorrow.

He'll be taking his exam next week or

He is taking his exam next week.

He won't be coming to the party or

He isn't coming to the party.

**Note:** The present continuous can only be used with a definite time and for the near future, while the future continuous can be used with or without a definite time and for the near or distant future. We can say:

I am meeting him tomorrow but

I'll be meeting him tomorrow/next year (or without a time expression at all)

## • The future continuous and will + infinitive compared:

I'll write to Mr Pitt and tell him about Tom's new house. .....(1)
I'll be writing to Mr Pitt and I'll tell him about Tom's new house. .....(2)

In (1) the speaker announces a deliberate future action in accordance with his own wishes. In (2) It is a mere statement of fact and implies that this letter to Mr Pitt will be written either as a matter of routine or for reasons unconnected with Tom's new house.(no deliberate action)

Tom won't cut the grass = Tom refuses to cut it

Tom **won't be cutting** the grass = a mere statement of fact, giving no information about Tom's feelings. Perhaps Tom is away or ill, or will be doing something else.

#### 3. The Future Perfect

- It is used for an action which at a given future time will be in the past, or will just have finished.
  - Example, imagine that it is 3 December and David is very worried about an exam that he is taking on 13 December. Someone planning a party might say:
  - We'd better wait till 14 December. David will have had his exam by then, so he'll be able to enjoy himself.
- It is normally used with a time expression beginning with by, by then, by that time, by the 24<sup>th</sup> ...etc.

### 4. The Future Perfect Continuous

- Like the future perfect, it is normally used with a time expression beginning with by: By the end of this year he'll have been acting for thirty years.
  - The future perfect continuous bears the same relationship to the future perfect as the present perfect continuous bears to the present perfect, i.e. the future perfect continuous can be used instead of the future perfect:
  - 1- When the action is continuous:

    By the end of the month he will have been living/working/studying here for ten years.
  - 2- When the action is expressed as a continuous action:

    By the end of the month he will have been training horses/climbing mountains for twenty years.

**Note:** But if we mention the number of horses or mountains, or divide this action in any way, we must use the future perfect;

By the end of the month he will have trained 600 horses/climbed 50 mountains.