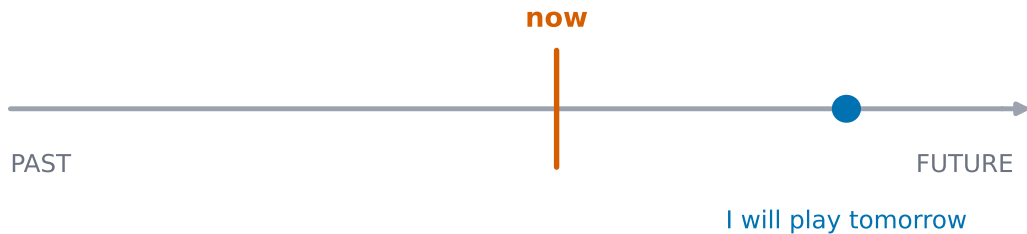


Talking about the future

English Grammar · A2

will

Future - will / going to



Future: will / going to: tense timeline

will is used to talk about the future, especially **spontaneous decisions**, **predictions**, and **promises**.

Structure: + **will** + (Same for all persons; will not = won't)

I will call you tonight.

I will call you tonight.

It will rain tomorrow.

It will rain tomorrow.

Note

- Use the **base form** of the verb after will: *~~will to go~~* × → *will go* ✓.
- Negative uses won't: *I won't be late.* (I will not be late.)

be going to

be going to is used to talk about **plans** and **predictions based on current evidence**.

Structure: + **am / is / are** + **going to** +

We are going to visit our grandma.

We are going to visit Grandma. (A plan already made)

Look at the clouds! It is going to rain.

Look at those clouds! It's going to rain. (Based on current signs)

will or going to?

- Spontaneous decision → **will**: *The phone is ringing. I'll get it.* (Phone rings, I decide now to answer.)
- Pre-planned intention → **going to**: *I'm going to study tonight.* (I have planned to study tonight.)

Present continuous for future plans

The present continuous can also express **scheduled future events** (especially when there is a definite time or place).

Structure: + am / is / are + -ing +

I am meeting Tom tomorrow.

I am meeting Tom tomorrow. (An appointment has been set)

We are flying to Tokyo on Friday.

We are flying to Tokyo on Friday. (Tickets are booked)

Note: This usage emphasizes that something is “already arranged,” which is similar to ‘be going to’; the key factor is having a **definite future time**.

Common Errors

- × ~~I go to Shanghai tomorrow.~~ → ✓ I **am going** to Shanghai tomorrow. / I **will go**... — The Chinese “I go to Shanghai tomorrow” lacks a future marker; English requires adding (will / going to / present continuous).
- × ~~We will going to visit grandma.~~ → ✓ We **are going to** visit... / We **will** visit... — will and be going to are separate structures and cannot be combined.
- × ~~She will comes tomorrow.~~ → ✓ She will **come** tomorrow. — After will, use the base form of the verb; no -s is added for any person.
- Exception: Timetables (trains, flights, classes) can use the simple present to express the future: *The train **leaves** at 9.* (The train leaves at nine o'clock.)