

The Basic Future

There are four possible structures we can use to talk about one simple future event. We can use the present simple tense, the present continuous tense, the will future and the going to future.

Present Simple

Future event with a schedule/timetable

The plane lands at 6pm tonight

After the words when, until, before, after
and as soon as

**As soon as she finishes her homework,
we will go into town**

Present Continuous

Future event that is planned and
organised but not to a timetable

We are getting married in summer

Future events that often involve other
people

She is coming for dinner on Sunday

Going To

Planned future event or intention that is
decided but not fully organised

**The windows are dirty. I'm going to clean
them at some point!**

Prediction based on current information

**Look at those black clouds! It's going to
rain!**

Action about to happen in the immediate
future

Careful! It is going to fall on the floor!

Will

Spontaneous future decision: **I'm thirsty, I will
have a drink**

True future fact: **Tomorrow will be Sunday**

Personal prediction: **I think we'll win**

Offer: **I'll open the door for you, don't worry!**

Threat: **If you don't come here, you won't get
dinner**

Promise: **I promise I'll buy you a new phone**