The Future Tenses:

Simple Future & Future Progressive

Student Name:

Date:

Instructor:

Course:

# About This DLA

## Important Note

All the activities (3) in the DLA must be completed in their entirety before receiving credit for completion. Students are welcome to meet with a tutor if they need help, but please be aware that students might need a second appointment for review and signature in that case. If your instructor wants evidence of this completed DLA, return this form to him or her with the tutor’s signature included.

## Learning Outcomes

Through computer and other independent work, this activity will familiarize you with the future tenses and help you create sentences with accurate use of the future tenses.

## Activities (approximately 1 hour)

Read the information, complete the activities that follow, and be prepared to discuss your answers when you meet with a tutor.

# The Simple Future Tense

The simple future is generally used to express actions or events that **have** not yet **taken place** and that **will be** completed **in the future**. It can be expressed in the following ways.

* will + base form of verb 🡪 I **will call** you when I have a break.
* be going to + base form of verb 🡪 I **am going to visit** my family this weekend.

Sometimes you can use either one of the above forms, and the meaning will be the same. Other times, different forms will have different meanings. Below are explanations of the meanings of each form used to express the simple future.

| ***Be Going To* + base verb** | ***Will* + base verb** |
| --- | --- |
| * + Predictions * Robots **are going to rule** the world. * She **is going to win** the match. * I **am going to have** problems. | * + Predictions * Robots **will rule** the world. * One day, I **will be** rich. |
| * + Definite plans for the future * I **am going to register** for classes next fall. * He **is going to go** to Cancun for spring break. * When he gets his check, he **is going to buy** a lottery ticket. | * + Hope for the future * We **will buy** a house someday.   + When deciding something at the moment of speaking * I’ll open the door for you! * Teacher: Who wants to read? * Student: I’ll do it. |
| * + Immediate Future * Be careful! You’**re going to crash**! * Look at those clouds. It**’s going to rain**. | * + Promises * We will pay you back. * I will call you as soon as I get home. |
|  | * + Invitations/Requests * Will you come to my party? * Will you marry me? |

Notice that time clauses (*when, while, as soon as, before, after, until*, etc.) or conditionals (*if, unless*) **cannot** contain the future, only **simple present** or **present progressive**.

## Forming the Simple Future

BE GOING TO + BASE FORM OF VERB

|  | Affirmative | Negative | Interrogative |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| I | I **am going to buy** a house someday. | I **am not going to buy** a house someday. | **Am** I **going to buy** a house someday? |
| You | You **are going to buy** a house someday. | You **are not going to buy** a house someday. | **Are** you **going to buy** a house someday? |
| He/She/It | He **is going to buy** a house someday. | He **is not going to buy** a house someday. | **Is** he **going to buy** a house someday? |
| We | We **are going to buy** a house someday. | We **are not going to buy** a house someday. | **Are** we **going to buy** a house someday? |
| They | They **are going to buy** a house someday. | They **are not going to buy** a house someday. | **Are** they **going to buy** a house someday? |

WILL + BASE FORM OF VERB

|  | Affirmative | Negative | Interrogative |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| I, You, He/She/It, We, They | She **will open** the door for you. | She **will not open** the door for you. | **Will** she **open** the door for you? |

# The Future Progressive Tense

The future progressive is used to express actions or events that **have** not yet **taken place** and that **will be** on-going (in progress) **in the future.** It can be expressed in the following ways.

* will + be + verb-ing 🡪 I **will be studying** when you get home.
* am/is/are + going to be + verb-ing 🡪 I **am going to be studying** when you get home.

\*Generally, progressive forms do not occur with non-action verbs. For example, there is no future progressive for the "to be" verb. Instead of saying "will be ~~being,~~" we say "will be": *"We will* ***be*** *happy."*

* + Examples
* The students **will be taking** a test next Monday.
* He **is going to be working** at 10:15 pm.
* In 2025, we **are going to be** **living** on Mars.
* At noon tomorrow, I **am going to be having** lunch with a friend.
* We **will be serving** drinks shortly.
* *While* you are working, I **will be relaxing** on the beach.
* Notice that time clauses (*when, while, as soon as, before, after, until*, etc.) or conditionals (*if, unless*) **cannot** contain the future, only **simple present** or **present progressive**.
* Non-action verbs (mental states, emotional states, possession, *be*) are usually **not** in a progressive form.
  + Sometimes there is no difference between the simple future and the future progressive (especially when the future event will take place at an indefinite time in the future)
* They **will be calling** you soon. OR They **will call** you soon.

## Forming the Future Progressive

BE GOING TO + BE + verb-ING

|  | Affirmative | Negative | Interrogative |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| I | I **am going to be teaching** tomorrow afternoon. | I **am not going to be teaching** tomorrow afternoon. | **Am** I **going to be teaching** tomorrow afternoon? |
| You | You **are going to be teaching** tomorrow. | You **are not going to be teaching** tomorrow. | **Are** you **going to be teaching** tomorrow? |
| He/She/It | He **is going to be teaching** tomorrow. | He **is not going to be teaching** tomorrow. | **Is** he **going to be teaching** tomorrow? |
| We | We **are going to be teaching** tomorrow. | We **are not going to be teaching** tomorrow. | **Are** we **going to be teaching** tomorrow? |
| They | They **are going to be teaching** tomorrow. | They **are not going to be teaching** tomorrow. | **Are** they **going to be teaching** tomorrow? |

WILL + BE + verb-ING

|  | Affirmative | Negative | Interrogative |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| I, You, He/She/It, We, They | She **will be teaching** tomorrow afternoon. | She **will not be teaching** tomorrow afternoon. | **Will** she **be teaching** tomorrow afternoon? |

## Other Forms

You can also use the *simple present* and the *present progressive* to talk about the future.

* **Simple Present (base form of the verb)**
  + Events on a definite schedule/timetable
* My plane **leaves** at noon.
* The ship **arrives** next Tuesday.

\*Only a few verbs can be used in the simple present to express future time. The most common are ***be, open, close, start, begin, end, finish, arrive, leave.***

Verbs such as ***eat, enjoy, wear*** (and many others) cannot be used in the simple present to express future because they are not “events on a definite schedule/timetable.”

* **Present Progressive (am/is/are + verb-ing)**
  + Definite intention or plans for the future
* We **are getting** married next week.
* She **is giving** a presentation tomorrow.
* I **am leaving** on Monday.

If it makes it easier for you to remember all of the above information, take a look at the table below. Keep in mind that the use of different forms of the future may vary, and this table does **not** reflect all possibilities.

|  | Example | Simple Future: Be going to | Simple Future: Will | Future Progressive | Simple Present | Present Progressive |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Definite plans for the future | *I* ***am going to register*** *for classes next fall.*  *We* ***are getting married*** *next week.* | **X** |  |  |  | **X** |
| Immediate future | *Be careful! You’****re going to crash****!* | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| Predictions | *She* ***is going to win*** *the match.*  *One day, I* ***will be*** *rich.* | **X** | **X** |  |  |  |
| Hope for the future | *Someday, we* ***will travel*** *to the moon.* |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| When deciding something at the moment of speaking | *I’****ll open*** *the door for you!* |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Promises | *I* ***will call*** *you as soon as I get home.* |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Invitations/  Requests | ***Will*** *you* ***come*** *to my party?* |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| Events on a definite schedule/timetable | *My plane* ***leaves*** *tomorrow.* |  |  |  | **X** |  |
| Events that will be in progress (on-going) in the future | *I* ***will be serving*** *your drinks shortly./I’****m going to be serving*** *your drinks shortly.* |  |  | **X** |  |  |

# Activities

Check off each box once you have completed the activity.

## 1. Future Tenses Review

Review the information on this sheet. Then, answer the following questions.

| Write the answer. |
| --- |
| In what situations do we use the simple future with WILL? |
|  |
| Write your own sentence in the simple future with WILL |
|  |
| In what situations do we use the simple future with BE GOING TO? |
|  |
| Write your own sentence in the simple future with BE GOING TO. |
|  |
| In what situations do we use the future progressive? |
|  |
| Write your own sentence with the future progressive. |
|  |
| In what situations do we use the simple present to refer to the future? |
|  |
| Write your own sentence with the simple present referring to the future. |
|  |
| In what situations do we use the present progressive to refer to the future? |
|  |
| Write your own sentence with the present progressive referring to the future. |
|  |

## 2. Online Quiz

Go to http://tinyurl.com/FutureTensesDLAand take the [Future Tenses DLA Quiz](http://tinyurl.com/FutureTensesDLA).You must score at least 80% on the exercises before seeing a tutor. After you complete the task, **PLEASE ASK A LAB TUTOR OR FRONT DESK ATTENDANT TO PRINT THE PAGE THAT HAS YOUR SCORE. DO NOT EXIT THE PROGRAM UNTIL THIS PAGE HAS BEEN PRINTED (FREE OF CHARGE).** If you have any other questions, do not hesitate to ask a lab tutor.

## Choose 3a or 3b Below

## 3a. Examine Your Own Writing

Collect some of your graded work (paragraph or essay). Find at least five examples of sentences that contain different forms of the future. Then underline the sentences and answer the questions below.

Did you use the correct form of the future in each of the sentences that you underlined? In other words, did you choose the correct form for the meaning you wanted to convey (such as plans, predictions, hope for the future, etc.)? If not, which form should you have used instead? If you are not sure, review the information on this handout. When meeting with a tutor, point to each of your underlined sentences and discuss your answers to the above questions.

| Write the answer |
| --- |
|  |
|  |
|  |

**If you do not have your own essay to work with, please complete the supplemental activity below (3b).**

## 3b. Paragraph Writing

Pretend you are planning a surprise birthday party for one of your friends. On a separate sheet, write a short paragraph (5-7 sentences) in which you explain what you plan on doing, who you think will attend, what might happen during the party, etc. Use as many forms of the future tense as you can, and be prepared to explain to a tutor why you chose those forms.

## 4. Review the DLA

Go to https://mtsac2.mywconline.com and use the [Mt. SAC Writing Center Appointment System](https://mtsac2.mywconline.com/) to make a DLA appointment, or sign-up to see a tutor on the “**Walk-in**” list in the Writing Center. During your session with a tutor, refer to your own graded writing (or the completed activity) and explain your work to demonstrate your understanding of the future tense.

Student’s Signature:

Tutor’s Signature

Date:

Date:

If you are an individual with a disability and need a greater level of accessibility for any document in The Writing Center or on The Writing Center’s website, please contact the Mt. SAC Accessible Resource Centers for Students, [access@mtsac.edu](mailto:access@mtsac.edu), (909) 274-4290.

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