

GRAMMAR --S2-2- The simple future tense

The simple future tense

The simple future is a verb tense that's used to talk about things that **haven't happened yet**.

Example: This year, Jen **will read** *War and Peace*. It **will be** hard, but she's determined to do it.

Use the simple future to talk about an action or condition that will **begin and end** in the future.

How to Form the Simple Future

The formula for the simple future is **will + [root form of verb]**.

Example: I **will learn** a new language. Jen **will read** that book. My brothers **will sleep** till noon if no one wakes them up. You **will see** what I mean.

It doesn't matter if the subject is singular or plural; the formula for the simple future doesn't change.

But...

There is another way to show that something will happen in the future. It follows the formula: **[am/is/are] + going to + [root form verb]**.

Examples: I **am going to learn** a new language.

Jen **is going to read** that book.

My brothers **are going to sleep** till noon if no one wakes them up.

You **are going to see** what I mean.

Remark:

The "**going to**" construction is common in speech and casual writing. Keep in mind though that it's on the informal side, so it's a good idea to stick to the **will + [root form]** construction in formal writing.

How to Make the Simple Future Negative

To make the simple future negative, the formula is **will + not + [root form]**.

Examples : -Ali **will not quit** before he reaches his goal.

-Make sure you arrive on time tomorrow because the bus **will not wait** for you.

-He **will not say** anything bad about his boss.

-I **will not finish** my homework in time for class.

Using the "going to" construction, the formula is **[am/is/are] + not + going to + [root form]**.

Examples: Ali **is not going to quit** before he reaches his goal. Make sure you arrive on time tomorrow because the bus **is not going to wait** for you. He **is not going to say** anything bad about his boss. I **am not going to finish** my homework in time for class.

How to Ask a Question

To ask a question in the simple future, the formula is **will + [subject] + [root form]**.

Will Ali finish *War and Peace* over the summer? **Will I have** the discipline to study Spanish every day? What **will you buy** with the money you found?

The formula for the "going to" construction is **[am/is/are] + [subject] +going to + [root form]**.

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Examples: Is Ali going to finish *War and Peace* over the summer? Am I going to have the discipline to study Spanish every day? What are you going to buy with the money you found?

Common Verbs in the Simple Past

Infinitive	Simple Future	Negative
to be	will be	will not be
to ask	will ask	will not ask
to work	will work	will not work
to call	will call	will not call
to use	will use	will not use
to have	will have	will not have

The “Going to” Construction

Infinitive	I	You, We, They	He, She, It
to be	am going to be am not going to be	are going to be are not going to be	is going to be is not going to be
to ask	am going to ask am not going to ask	are going to ask are not going to ask	is going to ask is not going to ask