

Future Tenses

Students have difficulties understanding why there are so many ways to express the action in the future and how to use them. Here are some ideas you can use to practise future tenses with your Intermediate and higher level students. These activities are suitable for group and one-on-one classes (a teacher will be a partner).

Task I

Tick the correct tense and write an example about yourself for each rule

	Example	Future Simple	Be going to	Future Continuous	Future Perfect	Future Perfect Continuous	Present Simple	Present Continuous
thoughts about the future with verbs <i>think, believe, expect</i> , expressions <i>be sure</i> , adverbs <i>probably, perhaps</i>								
before, by, by then, by the time, until								
an action that will happen as a result of an arrangement								
weather forecasts								
plans, intentions and ambitions								
for an action which will be finished before a stated future time								
promises, threats, warnings, requests, hopes and offers								

Tick the correct tense and write an example about yourself for each rule

	Example	Future Simple	Be going to	Future Continuous	Future Perfect	Future Perfect Continuous	Present Simple	Present Continuous
on-the-spot decisions								
actions we have decided and arranged to do in the near future								
tonight, soon, next week/month/year, in a day, tomorrow, the day after tomorrow								
actions we have decided to do in the near future								
future actions that refer to programmes and timetables								
to ask politely about someone's plan in the near future								

Task II

Put the verbs into the correct form

- 1.** Next week I **(go)** to London for a conference. I have already booked my ticket. The train **(leave)** at 10 o'clock in the morning and one of my colleagues **(wait)** for me at the station when the train arrives. I don't know how long the conference **(last)** but I **(return)** home by Saturday.
- 2.** I **(become)** a teacher when I graduate from university. I think I probably **(teach)** at a school and then maybe at a university. This time next year I **(take)** my exams. By the time I get my degree, I **(study)** for five years. I hope I **(be)** a good teacher.

Task III

Which option is correct? Discuss with your partner.

1. *I'm hungry.*

- OK, I'm going to cook you something
- OK, I'll cook you something.

2. I'm sure he is going to come.
I'm sure he will come.

3. I won't probably go to the party.
I probably won't go to the party.

4. I'll forward the email when he'll send it.
I'll forward the email when he sends it.

5. If you will give me your number, I'll call you.
If you give me your number, I'll call you.

6. Tomorrow I will travel to London.
Tomorrow I am travelling / am going to travel to London.

Task IV

Write a letter to your friend describing your holiday plans. Describe the following:

- arrangements for the trip
- your plans
- your hopes and expectations



Answers

skyteach

Task I

	Example	Future Simple	Be going to	Future Continuous	Future Perfect	Future Perfect Continuous	Present Simple	Present Continuous
thoughts about the future with verbs <i>think, believe, expect</i> , expressions <i>be sure</i> , adverbs <i>probably, perhaps</i>	I think we'll go to the sea next weekend.	✓						
before, by, by then, by the time, until	I will have done all my work by 8 o'clock.				✓	✓		
an action that will happen as a result of an arrangement								✓
weather forecasts	It will be sunny tomorrow.	✓						
plans, intentions and ambitions	I'm going to travel the world.		✓					
for an action which will be finished before a stated future time	I will have done all my work by 8 o'clock.				✓			
promises, threats, warnings, requests, hopes and offers	I promise I will always love you.	✓						

Tick the correct tense and write an example about yourself for each rule

	Example	Future Simple	Be going to	Future Continuous	Future Perfect	Future Perfect Continuous	Present Simple	Present Continuous
on-the-spot decisions	I'll have the salad and the chicken please.	✓						
actions we have decided and arranged to do in the near future	We are going to London this evening. Here are the tickets.		✓					
tonight, soon, next week/month/year, in a day, tomorrow, the day after tomorrow	I will/ I'm going to work.	✓	✓					
actions we have decided to do in the near future	I'm going on holiday in the summer.							✓
future actions that refer to programmes and timetables	The train arrives at 5 o'clock.						✓	
to ask politely about someone's plan in the near future	Will you be using the coffee maker?			✓				

Task II

Put the verbs into the correct form

1. Next week I'm going to London for a conference. I have already booked my ticket. The train leaves at 10 o'clock in the morning and one of my colleagues will be waiting for me at the station when the train arrives. I don't know how long the conference will last but I will have returned home by Saturday.

2. I'm going to become a teacher when I graduate from university. I think I will probably teach at a school and then maybe at a university. This time next year I will be taking my exams. By the time I get my degree, I will have studied for five years. I hope I will be a good teacher.

Task III

Which option is correct? Discuss with your partner.

1. *I'm hungry.*

- OK, I'm going to cook you something
- **OK, I'll cook you something.**

If the action is decided at the moment of speaking, we mostly use will.

2. I'm sure he is going to come.

I'm sure he will come.

When we say what we think or expect, we use will.

3. I won't probably go to the party.

I probably won't go to the party.

The adverbs definitely and probably come before won't, but after will.

4. I'll forward the email when he'll send it.

I'll forward the email when he sends it.

After when in conditional clauses we usually use Present Simple.

5. If you will give me your number, I'll call you.

If you give me your number, I'll call you.

After if in conditional clauses we usually use Present Simple.

6. Tomorrow I will travel to London.

Tomorrow I am travelling/am going to travel to London.

For decisions made in the past and for things we have arranged, we use the present continuous or the 'going to' future.