

Ways of expressing Future Actions.

Future Simple

1. I've got a terrible headache.
- Have you? I'll get you an aspirin.

I don't know how to switch it on.
It's quite simple. I'll show you.

A decision made on the spot.

2. I think Tom will get an excellent mark. He's been working hard.

Subjective prediction of the future

Often with <u>the verbs</u> :	or <u>adverbs</u> like:
Expect	perhaps
Think	probably
Assume	surely
Be sure	possibly
Be afraid	
Suppose	
Believe	

Ask him again. Perhaps he will change his mind.

3. In formal style for scheduled events (particularly in the written language)
//The wedding will take place at St. Andrews on June 27th.//

4. Expressing *offers, refusals, promises, requests, agreements*.

- 1) I'd like you to start the work as soon as possible.
- O.K. I'll start right away.
- 2) Unfortunately I can't buy this hat. I don't have enough money.
I'll lend you some. How much do you need?
- 3) Don't rely on his help. He won't help us.
- 4) I know it's in confidence. I won't tell Tom.
- 5) Will you stop that noise. I'm trying to concentrate.

Present Continuous

1. Planned actions, arrangements.
//We are spending next winter in Australia.// (adverbials are necessary unless the meaning is clear from the context)

2. Travel arrangements.
(verbs like *go, arrive, leave, come*)
//He's arriving tomorrow morning on the 13.27 train.//

"Going to"

1. Expressing planned actions, intentions (especially in informal style)
//She's going to have a game of tennis this afternoon.//
(in formal written language planned actions are expressed with "well")
2. Reference to the remote future in less common, time reference is usually required.
//She is going to be a ballet dancer when she grows up.//

If the speaker wants to be more precise about intentions and plans, the verbs “*to intend*”, “*to plan*” and “*to propose*” are used.

//They intend to built a new motorway to the west.//(more precise)

//They are going to built a new motorway to the west.// (vague)

3. Predictions of the future actions.

(especially in reference to the immediate future)

There are usually some signs or some evidence concerning what is about to happen.

//He’s going to get into a street accident pretty soon. Look! He’s driving so dangerously.//

//It is going to snow. Look at the clouds.//

//You don’t look too well. You are not going to come down with a cold, are you?//

Future Continuous

1. Actions that will be in progress in the immediate or distant future.

//Hurry up! The quests will be arriving any minute.//

2. Visualized future activities that are already planned.

//By (at) this time tomorrow I’ll be lying on the beach.//

3. Polite enquiries about plans and intentions.

//When will you be seeing Mr. White?//

4. Expressing simple futurity with a softening effect, that takes away the element of deliberate intention that is common for will.

//I will write letters tomorrow.// (promise, intention)

//I will be writing letters tomorrow.// (futurity)

5. Anticipation of future actions (based on 1) previous experience or knowledge, 2) natural course of events.)

//He never stays here long. He’ll be leaving quite soon.//

I can speak to Alan if you want me to. I’ll be seeing him at lunch. (we usually meet at lunch)

//It is September. Soon the leaves will be falling.// (it usually happens in September)

//Don’t tell Jill about it. She’ll be talking about it all over the town.// (it’s very typical of her)

6. Enquiring about a person’s plans before expressing a request.

//Will you be using your car in the afternoon, Dad? If not, do you think I could use it?//

//Will you be passing the post office? Could you post this letter for me?//

7. When parting with people or in letters.

//Bye! I’ll be seeing you soon.//

//Bye! I’ll be writing to you pretty soon.//