

Lesson Plan: Talking about the future: all forms reviewed

Level	Beginner / Intermediate (A2-B1)
Time	60 minutes
Skills	Grammar, speaking
Focus	Will, going to, present continuous, present simple for future — choosing the right form

OBJECTIVES

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Identify and produce all four main future forms correctly
- Choose the appropriate future form based on context
- Understand the key contrast between spontaneous (will) and planned (going to) future
- Use present simple for timetabled/scheduled events

TARGET LANGUAGE & EXAMPLES

Will — spontaneous decisions and predictions

- I'll answer that. (decided just now)
- It will probably rain tomorrow. (prediction without evidence)
- Don't worry, I'll help you. (offer made in the moment)

Going to — intentions and evidence-based predictions

- I'm going to apply for a new job. (plan in my head)
- Look at those clouds — it's going to rain! (evidence visible now)
- She's going to have a baby. (visible evidence)

Present continuous — fixed arrangements

- I'm meeting Tom at 3 o'clock. (booked, in the diary)
- We're flying to Barcelona on Friday. (ticket bought)
- Are you doing anything tonight?

Present simple — timetables and schedules

- The train leaves at 8:15. (timetabled)
- The film starts at 9 p.m. (scheduled)
- School finishes on July 12th. (fixed calendar event)

Meaning & Nuance

Form	Typical trigger	Example
will	spontaneous decision / prediction	I'll have the soup, please.
going to	prior intention / evidence	I'm going to study medicine.
present continuous	confirmed arrangement	I'm seeing the dentist on Monday.
present simple	timetabled / scheduled	The bus leaves at 7:30.

might / may

uncertain future

I might go to the party — not sure yet.

LESSON PROCEDURE

1. Warm-up: Future timeline (5 min)

Task: Students write 3 things happening in their future: tonight, next week, next year.

→ *Elicits all four forms naturally before formal instruction.*

2. Presentation (15 min)

Task: Quick review chart of all four forms with clear trigger cues.

- The 'calendar test': if it's in your diary, use present continuous.
- Evidence test: if you can see the evidence right now, use going to.
- Spontaneous test: if you just decided, use will.

3. Context choice task (15 min)

Task: Students choose the best future form for 10 situations.

- 'The phone rings. You pick it up.' → I'll answer it. (just decided)
- 'You bought flights to Paris last month.' → I'm going to Paris. OR I'm flying to Paris.

4. Future plans discussion (20 min)

Task: Students discuss near and distant future plans using all four forms.

- Tonight, this weekend, next year, in 10 years.

→ *Monitor specifically for will/going to confusion — the most common error.*

TEACHER NOTES

- Will vs. going to is the most tested future distinction in exams — worth spending the most time here.
- Present simple for timetables is often forgotten — the train departs / the film starts.
- Might/may for uncertainty is a useful extension for stronger students.

EXTENSION / HOMEWORK

Choose one or more:

1. Write about your plans for the next month using all four future forms.
2. Write 4 sentences about your country's future using will and going to.
3. Correct 6 future tense errors in a paragraph.