**Future forms – summary chart**



**Predictions**

We use **will** to talk about something we **think** that will happen:

* *I think he’****ll win*** *the election. I don’t think he will win the elections*
* *He* ***will be*** *a good doctor.*

We use **be going to** to talk about something that is very near to happen or that we **see** is going to happen (there is present evidence)

* *Don’t drive like a crazy man. We’****re going to have*** *an accident!*
* *The doctor said I’****m going to have*** *a girl.*

**Decisions**

We use **will** for decisions that we take at the moment of speaking (**instant decisions)**.

* ‘*Oh, we don’t have sugar.’ ‘Don’t worry, I’****ll buy*** *some.’*

We use **be going to** for decisions that we have already taken at the moment of speaking (**intentions or plans**).

* *‘Why are you undressing?’ ‘Because I’****m going*** *to go to the swimming pool.’*

**Arrangements**

We often use the **present continuous** to talk about future events that are already planned or decided. When we use the **present continuous** for arrangements, we must always include **when** (*at 7, this evening, next month*, etc.) in the sentence.

* *I’****m seeing*** *the dentist at 6.*
* *We****are getting*** *married next week.*
* *I’****m flying*** *to New York tomorrow morning.*

We can also use **be going to**for future arrangements.

* *I’****m going to*** *play tennis with Elisabeth today.*

**Future time clauses (when, as soon as, until, before, after)**

Use the **present simple** to talk about the future in sentences with **when, as soon as, until, before, after**.

* *I’ll retire when I’****m****70.* (NOT *~~when I’ll be~~*)
* *I won’t call you until I****arrive***(NOT *~~will arrive~~*.)

**Other uses of will**

**Promises and refusals**

* *I* ***will help****you whenever you need me.*
* *I* ***won’t lend*** *him my car.*

**Future facts**

* *The president* ***will visit*** *the Vatican next November.*

**Offers**

We use **I will** in statements or **shall** **I** in questions.

* *I’****ll carry*** *that bag for you.*
* ***Shall*** *I* ***organise*** *the meeting?*

**Suggestions**

We use **shall we…?**

* ***Shall*** *we* ***eat*** *out today?*

**Requests**

When we ask someone to do something for us.

* ***Will*** *you* ***open*** *the door, please?*

**may or might as a future form**

We use **may** or **might** for possible actions in the future (when ‘we are not sure’). Compare:

* *I’****ll be*** *late for dinner today.* (=I am sure.)
* *I* ***might******be*** *late for dinner today.* (=It’s possible, but I am not sure.)
* *I’****m going*** *to Denmark next September*. (=Sure.)
* *I* ***might go*** *to Denmark next September.* (=Not sure.)

We use **may** or **might** for things that will possibly happen in the future, but we are not too sure. It’s like a prediction about something that we think perhaps will happen.

* *The economy* ***might suffer*** *a global recession next year.*
* *Temperatures* ***may go up*** *next week.*

We use **may** or **might not**for actions or things that will possibly not happen.

* *She looks very tired. She* ***might not come*** *with us.*
* *We* ***may not have*** *enough time to finish the report for tomorrow.*