

### 3.1 Future forms (*will, going to*), present simple and present continuous

#### GR3.1 )))

- The team manager **won't be** at the meeting tomorrow; he's in Berlin at a conference.
- George has decided he's **going to study** economics at university.
- Their plane **lands** at 7.00 a.m. on Wednesday. **Will you go and meet** them?
- I'm leaving** at 4.00 p.m. today; I have a dentist's appointment at 4.30 p.m.

In English, there is no future tense. We use a number of different forms to talk about the future and each has its own meaning and use.

#### will

We use *will*:

- to make a prediction based on personal knowledge, opinion or feeling.  
*You'll really like the film.*  
*Some children born today will probably live to be 120 years old.*
- to make a spontaneous choice or decision. This can include promises, offers, plans, refusals and requests.

*I think I'll leave work a bit early today*

*I'll help you if you like.*

*I won't tell anyone. I promise.*

In speaking and in informal writing, we usually contract *will* to *'ll*, especially after subject pronouns.

*We'll arrive around 6.30 p.m.*

*I'll call you later.*

#### going to

We use *going to*:

- to make a prediction based on evidence in the present.  
*Look at the traffic. We're going to be late!*
- to talk about plans or intentions that were made before the time of speaking.  
*I think I'm going to look for a new job.*

#### Present simple

We use the present simple to talk about a scheduled or timetabled event.

*The conference is from 11 to 15 of April.*

*When does the new academic year start?*

#### Present continuous

We use the present continuous to talk about arrangements and fixed plans.

*We're meeting at the restaurant at 7.30 p.m.*

*Are you doing anything at the weekend?*

#### 1 Choose the correct options to complete the conversations.

- A Where are you going?  
B To the library. *I take / I'm going to take* some books back.  
A Oh, hang on a minute. *I come / I'll come* with you. *I'm taking / I'll take* mine back, too.
- A There's a documentary about the history of the Olympics on TV tonight.  
B Oh, *I'm telling / I'll tell* Tony. He loves anything connected with sport. What time *is it / will it be* on?  
A *It's going to start / It starts* at 7.30 p.m., I think. On Channel 5.
- A *Will you go / Are you going* on holiday this summer?  
B Yes, *we're going / we go* to Scotland for a week. We've rented a little cottage.
- A Do you know what *you get / you are getting* Andreas for his birthday?  
B *I'm going to get / I get* him that new computer game he's been talking about.  
A *He's liking / He'll like* that!

#### 2 Complete the conversation by putting the verbs in brackets in the most appropriate future form.

- A <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (you/do) anything tonight?  
B Yeah. I <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) Lucy and Thomas. We <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (see) a film.  
A What <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (you/see)?  
B We're not sure. We <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (see) what we feel like when we get to the cinema. We <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) outside the ABC cinema at 7.00 p.m. if you want to come with us. Most films <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (start) between 7.30 p.m. and 8.00 p.m.  
A Thanks, but I <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (see) Ben tonight, actually. But let me know when you're next going out and I <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (come) out with you.  
B Sure. I <sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (call) you.

#### 3 Complete the famous quotes using the phrases in the box.

am going to spend    will never cease    will never have to

- 'Choose a job you love, and you \_\_\_\_\_ work a day in your life.'  
(Chinese proverb)
- 'My interest is in the future because I \_\_\_\_\_ the rest of my life there.'  
(Charles Kettering)
- 'Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you \_\_\_\_\_ to grow.'  
(Anthony J. D'Angelo)

## 3.2 Future continuous and future perfect

### GR3.2 )))

- 1 This time next week, we'll be travelling on the Eurostar to Paris.
- 2 I'm sure I won't be doing the same job five years from now.
- 3 Who'll be taking over from you when you start your new job?
- 4 Computers will have changed beyond recognition in twenty years' time.
- 5 The director is very angry because the decorators won't have finished the hall in time for the conference.
- 6 Do you think humans will have found a cure for cancer in the next ten years?

### Future continuous

We form the future continuous with *will + be + -ing*. We use the future continuous to talk about an action in progress at a certain time or over a period of time in the future.

*This time tomorrow I'll be flying to New York.*  
*I hope I won't still be working here in five years.*

### Future perfect

We form the future perfect with *will + have + past participle*. We use the future perfect to talk about an action completed before a certain time in the future or still in progress up to a certain time in the future.

*Do you think you'll have finished the report by the end of the week?*  
*Next month, we'll have lived here for twenty years.*

- We can also use the future perfect continuous, although this is not common. The form is *will + have been + -ing*.

*In September, I'll have been working here for a year.*

We often use the future continuous and the future perfect with phrases that specify a time in the future, such as **this time tomorrow/next week/next month**, **by August/the end of the year/2030**, **in a week's/six months'/ten years' time**, **an hour/a week/twenty years from now**.

**This time next week**, I'll have finished all my exams  
**By the end of the century**, humans will be living on the moon.  
**In ten years' time**, I'll have got married and had three kids.  
**A week from now**, we'll be lying on the beach.

- 1 Choose the correct alternative.

- 1 Don't call me at 7 p.m. as we'll have had / 'll be having dinner then. But we'll be finishing / 'll have finished by about 8 p.m., so call sometime after that.
- 2 This time next week, I'll have driven / 'll be driving to Scotland from London. Maybe I'll be halfway there. But I'll have arrived / 'll be arriving by the evening as long as there are no major delays.
- 3 Experts agree that not too far in the future, physical media such as Blu-ray or DVDs will be becoming / will have become a thing of the past. Instead, we will have streamed / will be streaming on-demand music, film, news and games directly into our homes.
- 4 By 2050, the world's population will be rising / will have risen from seven billion to over nine billion. And it is forecast that, by 2030, India will be overtaking / will have overtaken China as the world's most populous country.

- 2 Put the verbs in brackets into the correct future continuous or future perfect form.

### The new Pangaea

The Earth's continents are all on the move, as they have been since the supercontinent Pangaea broke up about 200 million years ago. Fifty million years from now, Africa <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (already/start) to collide with southern Europe. Within 100 million years, the Mediterranean Sea <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (disappear) completely and thousands of miles of new mountain ranges <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (be formed). Around the same time, Australia and Antarctica <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (steadily/continue) on their paths northwards and the Americas <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (proceed) on their westward course away from Europe and Africa, also towards Asia. 250 million years from now, all the continents <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (merge), resulting in the formation of a new supercontinent called Pangaea Ultima. However, this newly formed land mass will split once more and start a new 500-million-year cycle of drifting and merging.

- 3 Write what will be happening or what will have happened at the following times. Use the verbs in the box.

do finish get leave snow

- 1 Come round at 6.30 p.m. We \_\_\_\_\_ eating by then.
- 2 I \_\_\_\_\_ my biology exam this time tomorrow.
- 3 I imagine I \_\_\_\_\_ married by the time I'm 30.
- 4 According to the weather forecast, it \_\_\_\_\_ when we arrive.
- 5 If we don't hurry up, the bus \_\_\_\_\_.