

The Writing Center

DLA: The Future Tenses



This DLA is a writable PDF form. You can enter your answers directly into this document.

YOU MUST DOWNLOAD AND SAVE THIS FILE TO YOUR COMPUTER.

Do not complete this form in a web browser. You will not be able to save your work.

Student Name:

Important Note

To get completion credit for this DLA, make sure you complete all the required activities. If you'd like help while working on a specific DLA, you can meet with a specialist at the Writing Center. Keep in mind that you might need to schedule a second appointment to review your work, check your understanding, and get your completion credit. You can only review **ONE** DLA per appointment. (Check the last section of this DLA for information on making your appointment and receiving completion credit for your work).

Activities (approximately 1 hour)

Read the information, complete the activities that follow, and be prepared to discuss your answers when you meet with a tutor.

The Simple Future Tense

The simple future is generally used to express actions or events that **have not yet taken place** and that **will be completed in the future**. It can be expressed in the following ways.

1. will + base form of verb → I will call you when I have a break.
2. be going to + base form of verb → I am going to visit my family this weekend.

Sometimes you can use either one of the above forms, and the meaning will be the same. Other times, different forms will have different meanings. Below are explanations of the meanings of each form used to express the simple future.

Be Going To + base verb	Will + base verb
<p>➤ Predictions</p> <p>3. Robots are going to rule the world. 4. She is going to win the match. 5. I am going to have problems.</p>	<p>➤ Predictions</p> <p>6. Robots will rule the world. 7. One day, I will be rich.</p>
<p>➤ Definite plans for the future</p> <p>8. I am going to register for classes next fall. 9. He is going to go to Cancun for spring break. 10. When he gets his check, he is going to buy a lottery ticket.</p>	<p>➤ Hope for the future</p> <p>11. We will buy a house someday.</p> <p>➤ When deciding something at the moment of speaking</p> <p>12. I'll open the door for you! 13. Teacher: Who wants to read? 14. Student: I'll do it.</p>
<p>➤ Immediate Future</p> <p>15. Be careful! You're going to crash! 16. Look at those clouds. It's going to rain.</p>	<p>➤ Promises</p> <p>17. We will pay you back. 18. I will call you as soon as I get home.</p> <p>➤ Invitations/Requests</p> <p>19. Will you come to my party? 20. Will you marry me?</p>

Notice that time clauses (*when, while, as soon as, before, after, until* etc.) or conditionals (*if, unless*) **cannot** contain the future, only **simple present** or **present progressive**.

Forming the Simple Future

BE GOING TO + BASE FORM OF VERB

	Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative
I	I am going to buy a house someday.	I am not going to buy a house someday.	Am I going to buy a house someday?
You	You are going to buy a house someday.	You are not going to buy a house someday.	Are you going to buy a house someday?
He/She/It	He is going to buy a house someday.	He is not going to buy a house someday.	Is he going to buy a house someday?
We	We are going to buy a house someday.	We are not going to buy a house someday.	Are we going to buy a house someday?
They	They are going to buy a house someday.	They are not going to buy a house someday.	Are they going to buy a house someday?

WILL + BASE FORM OF VERB

	Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative
I, You, He/She/It, We, They	She will open the door for you.	She will not open the door for you.	Will she open the door for you?

The Future Progressive Tense

The future progressive is used to express actions or events that **have not yet taken place** and that **will be on-going (in progress) in the future**. It can be expressed in the following ways.

21. will + be + verb-ing → I **will be studying** when you get home.
22. am/is/are + going to be + verb-ing → I **am going to be studying** when you get home.

*Generally, progressive forms do not occur with non-action verbs. For example, there is no future progressive for the "to be" verb. Instead of saying "will be **being**," we say "will be": "We **will be happy**."

➤ Examples

23. The students **will be taking** a test next Monday.
24. He **is going to be working** at 10:15 pm.
25. In 2025, we **are going to be living** on Mars.
26. At noon tomorrow, I **am going to be having** lunch with a friend.
27. We **will be serving** drinks shortly.
28. *While you are working*, I **will be relaxing** on the beach.
29. Notice that time clauses (*when, while, as soon as, before, after, until*, etc.) or conditionals (*if, unless*) **cannot** contain the future, only **simple present** or **present progressive**.
30. Non-action verbs (mental states, emotional states, possession, *be*) are usually **not** in a progressive form.

➤ Sometimes there is no difference between the simple future and the future progressive (especially when the future event will take place at an indefinite time in the future)

31. They **will be calling** you soon. OR They **will call** you soon.

Forming the Future Progressive

BE GOING TO + BE + verb-ING

	Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative
I	I am going to be teaching tomorrow afternoon.	I am not going to be teaching tomorrow afternoon.	Am I going to be teaching tomorrow afternoon?
You	You are going to be teaching tomorrow.	You are not going to be teaching tomorrow.	Are you going to be teaching tomorrow?
He/She/It	He is going to be teaching tomorrow.	He is not going to be teaching tomorrow.	Is he going to be teaching tomorrow?
We	We are going to be teaching tomorrow.	We are not going to be teaching tomorrow.	Are we going to be teaching tomorrow?
They	They are going to be teaching tomorrow.	They are not going to be teaching tomorrow.	Are they going to be teaching tomorrow?

WILL + BE + verb-ING

	Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative
I, You, He/She/It, We, They	She will be teaching tomorrow afternoon.	She will not be teaching tomorrow afternoon.	Will she be teaching tomorrow afternoon?

Other Forms

You can also use the *simple present* and the *present progressive* to talk about the future.

❖ Simple Present (base form of the verb)

- *Events on a definite schedule/timetable*
- 32. My plane **leaves** at noon.
- 33. The ship **arrives** next Tuesday.

*Only a few verbs can be used in the simple present to express future time. The most common are: **be, open, close, start, begin, end, finish, arrive, leave**.

Verbs such as **eat, enjoy, wear** (and many others) cannot be used in the simple present to express future because they are not “events on a definite schedule/timetable.”

❖ Present Progressive (am/is/are + verb-ing)

- *Definite intention or plans for the future*
- 34. We **are getting** married next week.
- 35. She **is giving** a presentation tomorrow.
- 36. I **am leaving** on Monday.

If it makes it easier for you to remember all of the above information, take a look at the table below. Keep in mind that the use of different forms of the future may vary, and this table does not reflect all possibilities.

	Example	Simple Future: Be going to	Simple Future: Will	Future Progressive	Simple Present	Present Progressive
Definite plans for the future	I am going to register for classes next fall. We are getting married next week.	X				X
Immediate future	Be careful! You're going to crash!	X				
Predictions	She is going to win the match. One day, I will be rich.	X	X			
Hope for the future	Someday, we will travel to the moon.		X			
When deciding something at the moment of speaking	I'll open the door for you!		X			
Promises	I will call you as soon as I get home.		X			
Invitations/Requests	Will you come to my party?		X			
Events on a definite schedule/timetable	My plane leaves tomorrow.				X	
Events that will be <u>in progress</u> (on-going) in the future	I will be serving your drinks shortly./I'm going to be serving your drinks shortly.			X		

Activities

Check off each box once you have completed the activity.

1. Future Tenses Review

Review the information on this sheet. Then, answer the following questions.

In what situations do we use the simple future with WILL?

Write your own sentence in the simple future with WILL

In what situations do we use the simple future with BE GOING TO?

Write your own sentence in the simple future with BE GOING TO.

In what situations do we use the future progressive?

Write your own sentence with the future progressive.

In what situations do we use the simple present to refer to the future?

Write your own sentence with the simple present referring to the future.

In what situations do we use the present progressive to refer to the future?

Write your own sentence with the present progressive referring to the future.

2. Online Quiz

Go to <http://tinyurl.com/futuretensesdla> and take the DLA quiz. You must score at least 75% on the quiz before meeting with a specialist. After you complete the task, please take a screenshot of the page that has your score and show it to your specialist. Do not exit the quiz until you take the screenshot.

Choose 3a or 3b Below

3a. Examine Your Own Writing

Collect some of your graded work (paragraph or essay). Find at least five examples of sentences that contain different forms of the future. Then underline the sentences and answer the questions below.

Did you use the correct form of the future in each of the sentences that you underlined? In other words, did you choose the correct form for the meaning you wanted to convey (such as plans, predictions, hope for the future, etc.)? If not, which form should you have used instead? If you are not sure, review the information on this handout. When meeting with a tutor, point to each of your underlined sentences and discuss your answers to the above questions.

If you do not have your own essay to work with, please complete the supplemental activity below (3b).

3b. Paragraph Writing

Pretend you are planning a surprise birthday party for one of your friends. Write a short paragraph (5-7 sentences) in which you explain what you plan on doing, who you think will attend, what might happen during the party, etc. Use as many forms of the future tense as you can and be prepared to explain to a tutor why you chose those forms.

4. Review the DLA/Receive Completion Credit

1. Go to [EAB Navigate](#) and make an appointment (online or in-person).
2. Attend your session and be prepared to explain your understanding of the information you've learned in the DLA. Consider the main concept you learned and how you might use this in your future assignments/classes.
3. If your professor asks you to provide proof, you can review the "appointment summary report" through EAB Navigate (app or desktop). You will find all Writing Center appointments under "appointment summary reports" (app or desktop). Look for the summary report for your DLA appointment. This is where your writing specialist will indicate the title of your DLA and state whether it is "completed" or "not completed." If it is marked as "not completed," book a follow up appointment to complete.

Note: Appointment summary reports are also sent weekly to your instructor on record. If there is an issue, please contact us at writingcenter@mtsac.edu or (909) 274-5325.

If you are an individual with a disability and need a greater level of accessibility for any document in The Writing Center or on The Writing Center's website, please contact the Mt. SAC Accessible Resource Centers for Students, access@mtsac.edu, (909) 274-4290.

Revised December 2025