

IELTS Grammar



■ Cadence

Future

1 Present continuous

We use the present continuous to talk about plans or definite arrangements for the future:

We're staying in a small hotel. (we have made the arrangements)

Notice that time expressions are used or understood from the context in order to show that we are talking about the future (and not the present):

The manager is having a party just after we get back. (time expression given)

We're playing four matches there. (future time expression understood)

I'm doing something (tomorrow etc.)= I have already decided and arranged to do it.

We do not normally use *will* to talk about what we have arranged to do

We also use the present continuous for an action just before you start to do it.

This happens especially with verbs of movement (go/come/leave etc.)

Are you ready? Yes, I'm coming.

Future

We use the present simple with a future meaning

- ◆ to talk about timetables or schedules:

*The conference only **lasts** three days.*

*The train to the airport **leaves** in 20 minutes.*

- ◆ after conjunctions such as *when, as soon as, after, before, until, as long as*:

*I'll be feeling really nervous **when** I **get** to Rome. (~~not when I will get to Rome~~)*

*Can you do it **before** we **have** the departmental meeting? (~~not before we will have the meeting~~)*

Note that other present tenses are also possible:

*I won't be able to relax **until** I'm actually **giving** my talk.*

You can use the present simple to talk about people if their plans are fixed like a timetable

I start my new job on Monday.

But the continuous is more usual for other personal arrangements

What time are you meeting Kate tomorrow? (not do you meet)

Future

Present continuous

What time are you arriving?

I'm going to the cinema this evening.

Present simple

What time does the train arrive?

The film starts at 8.15.

When you talk about appointments, lessons, exams etc., you can use **I have** or **I've got**:

I have an exam next week. or **I've got** an exam next week.

Extra: After *I hope*, we generally use the present simple

I hope Kate passes the driving test.

I hope it doesn't rain tomorrow



Future

We use *will*

- ◆ to make predictions, usually based on our opinions or our past experience:

*I think it'll **be** extremely hot there.*

- ◆ to talk about future events we haven't arranged yet:

*We'll probably **stay** in some sort of mountain lodge there.*

- ◆ to talk about future events or facts that are not personal:

*The best player on the tour **will get** a special trophy.*

*The prime minister **will open** the debate in parliament tomorrow.*

- ◆ to talk about something we decide to do at the time of speaking:

*Tell me all about it and I'll **pass on** the information to the rest of the team.*

We often use *will* to make offers, promises or suggestions:

*Don't worry, I'll **let** everyone know. (a promise)*

We use **shall** mostly in the questions **shall I ... ? / shall we ... ?** to ask if it's OK to do something or to ask for a suggestion

Shall I open the window? (= do you want me to open it?)

I've got no money. What **shall I** do? (= what do you suggest?)

Shall I shut the door? (= do you want me to shut it?)

Will you shut the door? (= I want you to shut it)

Future

Affirmative

+

will + verb

We'll enjoy it.

Negative

-

will not (won't) + verb

He won't enjoy it.

Interrogative

?

will ... + verb?

Will they enjoy it?

	Verbs	To Be
Affirmative	S + will + verb She will play basketball.	S + will be + P They will be doctors in 10 years.
Negative	S + will not(won't) + verb He will not (won't) go to the park.	S + will not + be + P He will not (won't) be late for school.
Interrogative	Will + S + verb? Will you visit your grandparents?	Will + S + be + P? Will you be free this evening?

Future

Going to often means the same as the present continuous and *will*.

We use *going to*

◆ to talk about events in the future we have already thought about and intend to do:

We're going to hire a bus. (we intend to go, but we haven't made the arrangements yet)

We're going to get a boat to a couple of the islands.

Compare:

I don't know what I'm doing tomorrow.

(= I don't know my schedule or plans)

I don't know what I'm going to do about the problem.

(= I haven't decided what to do)

I am doing = it is already fixed or arranged.

I am going to do something = I've decided to do it.

*Often the difference is small and either form is possible.



Future

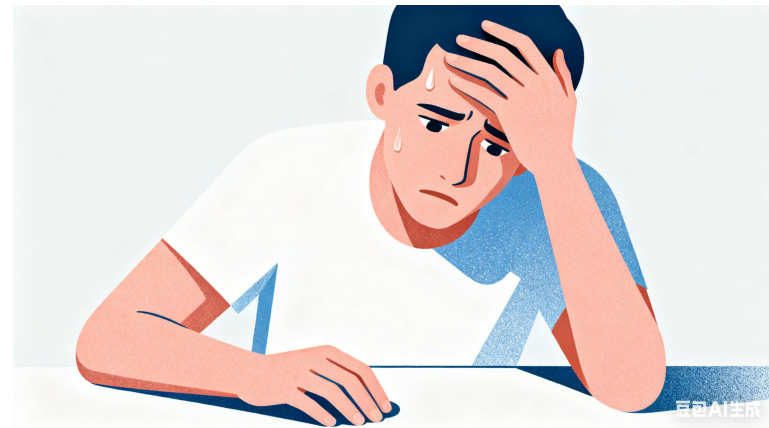
- ◆ to make predictions when there is present evidence:

*Well, we're certainly **going to have** a varied trip. (I am judging this from what I know about the plans)*

Look at those black clouds! It's going to rain.
(we can see the clouds now)



I feel terrible. I think I'm going to be sick.
(I feel terrible now)



Future

Affirmative

+

am/is/are + going to + verb

We're going to hire a bus.

Negative

-

am/is/are not + going to + verb

He's not going to hire a bus.

Interrogative

?

am/is/are ... + going to + verb?

Are they going to hire a bus?

	Verbs	To Be
Affirmative	S + be + going to + verb I am going to play football this afternoon.	S + be + going to + be + P It's going to be cold tomorrow.
Negative	S + be not + going to + verb He is not going to watch TV tonight.	S + be not going to + be + P It's not going to be easy.
Interrogative	Be(am/is/are) + S + going to + verb? Are they going to study for the test?	Be (am/is/are) + S + going to + be + P? Are they going to be late?

Future



We use will (We'll invite ...) to announce a new decision.

Sarah is talking to Helen:



We use (be) going to when we have already decided to do something.

Later that day, Helen meets Max:



Future

We use both **will** and **going to** for future happenings and situations. When we say something is going to happen, we believe this because of the situation now. What is happening *now* shows that something is going to happen *in the future*.

We're going to be late. The meeting starts in five minutes and it takes 15 minutes to get there.

(it is clear now that we don't have enough time to get there)

Jane will be late for the meeting. She's always late.

(I believe this because I know what Jane is like)

Summai

Going to and will can follow words like *think, doubt, expect, believe, probably, certainly, definitely, be sure* to show that it is an opinion about the future:

I think it's going to be a great trip.

I'm sure we'll enjoy it whatever the weather.

It'll probably rain every day.

We can often choose different future forms to talk about the same future situation. It depends on the speaker's ideas about the situation:

Present continuous or *going to*?

The manager is having a party when we get back. (definite arrangement)

We're going to hire a bus and then drive through the mountains. (less definite arrangement – we haven't booked the bus yet)

Going to or will?

I'm sure we'll enjoy it. (prediction based on my guess)

We're going to have a very varied trip!
(prediction based on what I know about the weather)

Often there is very little difference between *going to* and *will* for predictions.

一般过去将来时

We use *was/were going to*, *was/were planning to*, *was/were about to* + verb to talk something planned which did not or will not happen:

I was going to leave this morning but they cancelled my flight.

We were about to leave when the phone rang.

I was going to do something = I intended to do it, but didn't do it

We were going to travel by train, but then we decided to drive instead.

You can say that 'something was going to happen' (but didn't happen)

I thought it was going to rain, but it didn't.

would + 动词原形

He said he would come back soon.

他说他会很快回来。

They thought it would be easy.

他们以为那会很容易。

- 表示过去计划要做的事（但未必真的发生）
 - 表示过去预期将会发生的事
 - 表示叙述中“即将发生”的事情（常用于故事中）
- The bus was going to leave, when she suddenly appeared.

1. She said she _____ a doctor when she finished university.

A. is going to be

☒ B. was going to be

C. will be

2. We thought it _____ cold the next day, but it turned out to be sunny.

A. is going to be

☒ B. was going to be

C. would be being

3. She says she _____ a doctor one day.

A. was going to be

☒ B. is going to be

C. would be

4. He promised he _____ back soon.

A. will come

☒ B. would come

C. comes

Grammar extra: Making predictions using words other than *will*

In formal writing we often use expressions other than *will* to predict the future (e.g. *be likely to*, *be predicted to*, *be estimated to*, *be certain to*):

The population is likely to increase to 22 million in 2011.

The average annual rainfall is predicted to be ten per cent lower than today's figures.

2 Be about to

+	<i>am/is/are about to + verb</i>	<i>I'm about to go to Rome.</i>
-	<i>am/is/are not about to + verb</i>	<i>I'm not about to go to Rome.</i>
?	<i>am/is/are ... + verb?</i>	<i>Are you about to go to Rome?</i>

We use *be about to* to talk about something likely to happen in the immediate future:

I'm about to go to Rome for a conference. (I will be leaving very soon)

⚠ The negative form suggests the speaker has no intention of doing something:

I'm not about to cancel my trip. (= I have no intention of cancelling my trip)

Future

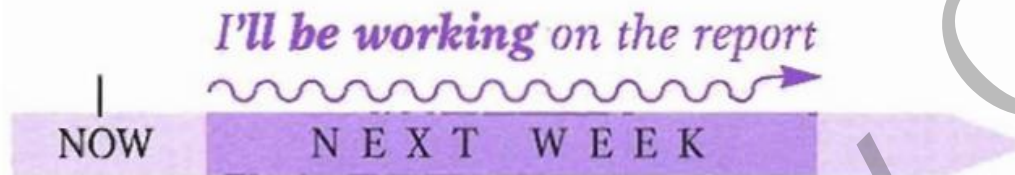
3 Future continuous

+	<i>will be + verb + -ing</i>	<i>I'll be feeling nervous.</i>
-	<i>will not (won't) be + verb + -ing</i>	<i>She won't be feeling nervous.</i>
?	<i>will ... be + verb + -ing?</i>	<i>Will you be feeling nervous?</i>

We use the future continuous

- ◆ to describe or predict events or situations continuing at a particular point in the future or over a period of time in the future:

I'll be working on the report all next week.



I'll be thinking of you in Rome.

By the year 2015 it is estimated that well over one billion people will be learning English.

- ◆ to talk about events that are planned or already decided (this use is similar to the present continuous for future arrangements):

I'll be seeing Sarah at lunch.

I will be doing something (future continuous)
= I will be in the middle of doing it

At 10 o'clock yesterday, Tina was in her office.
She was working. (past continuous)

It's 10 o'clock now. She is in her office. She is working. (present continuous)

At 10 o'clock tomorrow, she will be in her office.
She will be working. (future continuous)

Future

4 Future perfect simple

+	will have + past participle	<i>I'll have done it by then.</i>
-	will not (won't) have + past participle	<i>We won't have done it by then.</i>
?	will ... + have + past participle?	<i>Will you have done it by then?</i>

We use the future perfect simple to talk about a future event that will finish before a specified time in the future, often with *before*, *by* + fixed time, or *in* + amount of time:

*By the end of the year I **will have given** the same talk at 6 conferences!*

*I'll **have finished** it by next Friday.*

*In a week's time I'll **have written** the report.*

I will have done something (future perfect)

= it will be complete before a time in the future.

Ted and Amy have been married for 24 years. (present perfect)

Next year they will have been married for 25 years. (future perfect)

When their son was born, they had been married for three years. (past perfect)

Future

5 Future perfect continuous

+ *will have been + verb + -ing*

I'll have been studying here for three months.

- *will not (won't) have been + verb + -ing*

We won't have been studying here for long.

? *will ... + have been + verb + -ing?*

How long will you have been studying here?

We use the future perfect continuous to show how long an activity or situation has been in progress before a specified time in the future. We usually mention the length of time:

By the end of the month I'll have been working here for three years.

I'll have been studying here for three months. (我将已在这儿学习三个月了)

I have been studying here for three months. (我已在这儿学习三个月了)

I had been studying here for three months by last week. (到上周, 我已在这儿学习三个月了)

Practice

Andy goes to work every day. He leaves home at 8 o'clock and arrives at work at about 8.45.

He starts work immediately and continues until 12.30 when he has lunch (which takes about half an hour).

He starts work again at 1.15 and goes home at exactly 4.30.

Every day he follows the same routine and tomorrow will be no exception.

1



At 7.45

- a he'll be leaving the house
- b he'll have left the house
- c he'll be at home ✓
- d he'll be having breakfast ✓

4



At 12.45

- a he'll have lunch
- b he'll be having lunch ✓
- c he'll have finished his lunch
- d he'll have started his lunch ✓

2



At 8.15

- a he'll be leaving the house
- b he'll have left the house ✓
- c he'll have arrived at work
- d he'll be arriving at work

5



At 4 o'clock

- a he'll have finished work
- b he'll finish work
- c he'll be working ✓
- d he won't have finished work ✓

3



At 9.15

- a he'll be working ✓
- b he'll start work
- c he'll have started work ✓
- d he'll be arriving at work

6



At 4.45

- a he'll leave work
- b he'll be leaving work
- c he'll have left work ✓
- d he'll have arrived home

Practice

be pay rise work

By 2030 the percentage of the population aged 65 or older 1 ^{will have risen}
significantly, to more than 30%. This means that fewer people 2 ^{will be working}, and
therefore fewer people 3 ^{will be paying} income tax. In the future it may be necessary for
governments to increase the official retirement age to 70 or even older. When
today's 30 - year - olds 4 ^{are} in their sixties it is unlikely that they will enjoy
the relaxed lifestyle that today's older generation can expect when they give up
work.

“when, if, before, after, as soon as” 引导的从句谈论未来时，用一般现在时表示将来。

e.g. When he arrives tomorrow, we'll start the meeting.

Present Tenses (现在时态)

改写下列句子，使其分别使用不同的现在时态表达相同意思。

原句：许多年轻人出国留学是为了获得更好的职业机会。

一般现在时

Many young people study abroad to gain better career opportunities.

现在进行时

(强调趋势) Many young people are studying abroad to gain better career opportunities.

现在完成时

(强调变化结果) Many young people have studied abroad to gain better career opportunities.

现在完成进行时

(强调持续性) Many young people have been studying abroad to gain better career opportunities.

Past Tenses (过去时态)

完成下列句子，用括号中动词的正确形式。

1. In the early 20th century, most people ^{worked} _____ (work) in agriculture.
2. While cities ^{were expanding} _____ (expand), new social problems began to appear.
3. By the time the government introduced new housing laws, many citizens ^{had already moved} _____ (already/move) to urban areas.
4. Scientists ^{had been studying} _____ (study) the effects of industrial pollution for years before regulations were finally passed.

Future Tenses (将来时态)

完成下列句子，用括号中动词的正确形式。

1. By 2050, the global population ^{will have increased} _____ (will increase / will have increased) to nearly 10 billion.
2. In the next decade, more people ^{will be working} _____ (will work / will be working) from home.
3. By the time new energy technologies are developed, fossil fuels ^{will have been used} _____ (will be using / will have been used) for over 200 years.
4. In 2035, researchers ^{will be studying} _____ (will study / will have studied / will be studying) how AI affects employment.

Mixed Tenses

完成下列句子，用括号中动词的正确形式。

By 2030, it is estimated that the proportion of elderly citizens ^{will have risen} _____ (rise) sharply.

This trend ^{will affect} _____ (affect) both the workforce and public health systems.

For many years, governments ^{have been trying} _____ (try) to encourage young couples to have more children, but the results ^{have been} _____ (be) limited.

If this pattern continues, the economy ^{will face} _____ (face) a shortage of labour, while healthcare costs ^{will increase} _____ (increase) dramatically.

1 Most university students..... on campus in their first year.

A lives

☒ B live

C are living

2 From this graph we can see that the economy..... at the moment.

A improves

B improve

☒ C is improving

3 They..... personal computers when my father was a student.

A hadn't

☒ B didn't have

C weren't having

4 I..... want to be a practising doctor but now I'm more interested in research.

A was used to

☒ B used to

C would

5 The teacher..... us how to do the experiment when the fire bell rang.

A showed

B shown

☒ C was showing

6 I finished my essay yesterday but..... it in to the tutor yet.

A I've given

☒ B I haven't given

C I didn't give

7..... the experiment three times now with different results each time!

☒ A We've done

B We did

C We've been doing

8 When I arrived the lecture..... so I didn't find it easy to follow.

A started

☒ B had started

C had been starting

9 She..... well at school but that changed when she became friends with a different group of girls.

A did

B had done

☒ C had been doing

10..... the doctor at 2.00 this afternoon so I can't go to the lecture.

☒ A I'm seeing

B I see

C I will see

11 My sister..... economics and politics when she goes to university.

☒ A is going to study

B studies

C will study

12 While we're working on the project our boss..... on a beach in Greece!

A will sit

B will have sat

☒ C will be sitting

13 If the trend continues, the average income..... by 107% by 2020.

A will increase

☒ B will have increased

C will be increasing

THANKS
FOR
LISTENING