

14 Reference to Future Events

Practice Run 4 *This exercise covers the tenses and forms used for reference to future events, namely the Simple, the Progressive Future, the Future Perfect as well as Present Tenses expressing future meaning and the Going-To Form. For each verb in brackets use one of these and try to explain why.*

1. I hope Brenda **will still (be) work(ing)** for me when I retire in six years' time. She **retires/will retire** herself a few years afterwards, because then she **will be** sixty. She **will have been working** for the college for twenty years by then and she **will qualify/qualifies** for a full state pension. She says that when she retires she **will /is going to work** as a research consultant. She **will** probably **earn** more money doing that than she does now. At the moment she is in London on a special research project, but she **is coming (will come)** back tomorrow, so if you look in then I **will/shall introduce** you to her. **Shall I tell** her you may be coming?
2. I **will /am going to see** Willie tomorrow at our weekly Japanese class, so I'll **tell** him what you have just told me. He **will be** very pleased to know that you have passed your music exam. What **are you going to do (are you doing)** next? **Are /you preparing/ going to prepare** for the higher grade?
3. According to this timetable for my trip to Brazil for the university, I **am** due in Rio on the fourteenth and **(will) leave** for Sao Paulo on the seventeenth. That **won't give** me enough time to visit the three departments that are listed: they **(would) need** at least a day each. Incidentally, when **will I meet (am I meeting/do I meet)** Professor Jones in Sao Paulo? There's no mention of that here. And I see that I **am** due back in Britain on the twenty-second, which **means** only forty-eight hours in Brasilia, which in my opinion **isn't / won't be** enough. **Are you (will you be / would you be)** free any time this afternoon? Three-thirty? Good. So **am (would/will) I**. Could I discuss my Brazilian programme with you then?
4. 'I hear that Marilyn **is going (will be going)** to the States shortly. What is she **going to do** there?' 'She **is going to promote (is promoting)** her new book.' – 'How **will she do / is she going to do** that?' – 'She **will run / is going to run (will be running)** a number of workshops. I am sure she **will do** extremely well.'
5. Sir James and Lady Blenkinsop **will have been** married for thirty years next March. They **are celebrating (will celebrate)** their wedding anniversary with a dinner party at Blenkinsop Hall on the seventeenth. I don't think it **will be** a particularly stylish affair, but I am sure a lot of good food **will be** served. Sheila, Ken and Willie have been invited and **are going**. Marilyn was invited too, but can't go because she **will have left** for the States by

then. Helen and Denis say they **will go**, if they're invited (conditional) ! I haven't been invited yet, but I can't go anyway, as I **will be working** on a job in Glasgow at the time.

Are you going (will you go)?

6. 'Do you think there **will be** an election next month?' – 'There **will** definitely **be** one; they've just announced it on the radio. They haven't given a date, but it **will** probably **be** on the second Thursday in May.' – 'Who do you think **will /is going to win?**' – 'I don't know who **is going to (will) win**. But the Government will **is going to (will) lose**.'
7. 'This time tomorrow I'm **taking** my driving test. Wish me luck!' – 'I **will do** better than that; I **will (am going to) give** you some last-minute instruction.' – 'Thank you, but I **am not going** out this evening. I'm **staying** in and **(will go) going** to bed early. That **is (will be)** the best way to prepare for the test.'
8. 'I've just heard the weather forecast. It **going to (will) snow**. And that reminds me that Christmas **will soon be** here. Have you got any plans for a holiday?'
'I **was going to fly** to Mercia to stay with a friend, but as I **will probably not get** a visa in time I've decided to cancel the trip. So it looks as if I **am spending (will spend)** Christmas at home as usual. **Are you going to / doing** the same?'
'No, I'm **going** to Sweden.'
'Really? What **are you going to do** there?'
'I **will be doing/will do** some research for my book on Scandinavia. Then, if I have time, I **shall/'ll visit/'m going to** friends in Dalarna, about three hundred kilometers from Stockholm.'
'So when **will you be (are you going to be)** back in England?'
'I'm **flying** back on the eighth of January.'