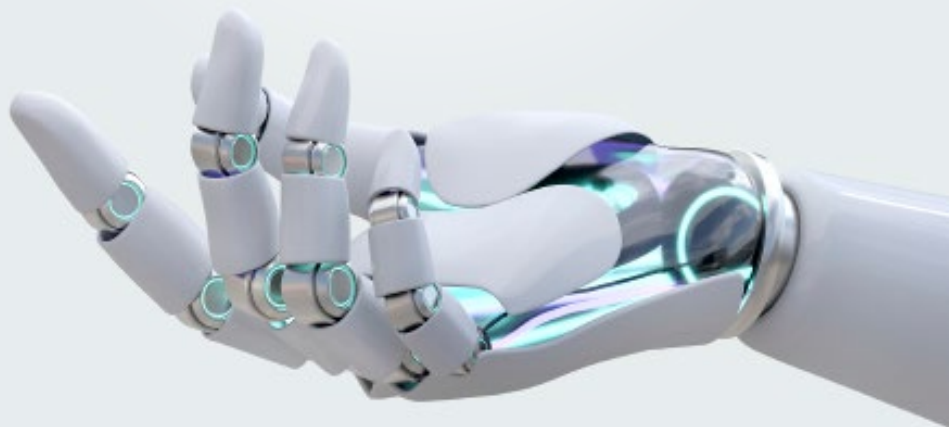


ENGLISH

96/2022

MATTERS

WAYS OF EXPRESSING THE FUTURE IN ENGLISH



DODATEK

ENGLISH MATTERS

There are a lot of ways of expressing the future in English. This guide will take you through all the possible grammatical forms that are used to talk about the future. You will find out how and when to use them, and do some exercises to practice. Let's get started!

to find out sth | dowiedzieć się czegoś

Poradnik językowy jest bezpłatnym dodatkiem do English Matters nr 96/2022.

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Tenses

We'll begin by looking at the tenses. Most people would immediately think about future tenses such as Future Simple or Future Continuous if asked about expressing the future in English. However, other tenses also come in handy.

immediately ɪ'mi:diətli | natychmiast
continuous kən'tɪnjuəs | ciągły
however | jednak/że
to come in handy | być przydatnym/użytecznym

■ Present Simple

The present simple is frequently used to talk about schedules and things happening regularly. Therefore, it can be used for a future situation that is a part of a fixed timetable:

- *Today, the train for London leaves at 9 pm.*
- *Kate sees Luke tomorrow.* (we can imagine we're reading Kate's planner).
- *The film starts at 7 pm tomorrow.*

frequently 'fri:kwəntli | często
schedule 'ʃedju:l / 'skedʒu:l | harmonogram, terminarz
therefore | dlatego
fixed | stały, ustalony
timetable | kalendarium (np. wystaw), plan zajęć/lekcji, rozkład jazdy

■ Present Continuous

The present continuous refers to a future situation that has already been arranged before the time of speaking and is sure to happen in the near future

- *Kate is seeing Luke tomorrow.* (They arranged this meeting yesterday).
- *We're flying to Barcelona next week.* (We bought tickets and booked a hotel).

arranged | ustalony, zaplanowany
to book sth | za/rezerwować coś

Future Simple

Future Simple is used in a number of situations. Let's focus on the most common ones:

To express a prediction about the future:

- *I think Liam will pass the final exams with flying colours.*

To express certainty:

- *Melanie called an hour ago that she was about to leave, so she will be home by now.* (The speaker is certain that Melanie is home)

To offer help:

- *'This bag is so heavy'. 'Wait, I'll carry it for you'.*

To express a decision made at the moment of speaking:

- *I know what I'll do tomorrow, I'll tell my boss I need a few days off.* (This is an instant decision)

To make a suggestion using *shall*:

- *Shall we go to the theatre this evening?*

to focus on sth | skupić się na czymś
with flying colours | śpiewająco, bez problemów

certainty 'sɜ:tnti / 'sɜ:rtnti | pewność
a few | kilka
days off | tu: wolne

Future Continuous

Future Continuous usually refers to a situation that begins before a future time point and continues through that time point:

- *Sandra's plane takes off from Heathrow at 9 o'clock tomorrow, so about midday she will be flying over Greece.*

It indicates a situation in progress at a particular time in the future:

- *Today is my last day at work before the holidays. This time next week, I'll be sunbathing in Italy.*

It is also used for predictions about activities in progress at a certain time in the future:

- *In ten years' time everyone will be driving electric cars.*

The final, less common use of Future Continuous is for predictions about what we think someone is doing right now:

- *Don't call her now. She'll be preparing dinner for the children.*

to take off | odlatywać
midday | południe
to indicate sth | wskazywać (na) coś

to sunbathe | opalać się
prediction | przewidywanie

■ Future Perfect

When we refer to a future action completed before a later future time, we use *will + have + past participle* (third form).

- *I will have moved to another house just before I turn 60.*

(Moving to another house will be completed earlier than turning 60).

- *By the time she leaves Lisbon tomorrow, Craig will have seen Peter and told him the news.*

■ Future Perfect Continuous

We use Future Perfect Continuous to express how long someone has been doing something up to a certain point in the future. It is structured with *will + have + been + -ing* form.

- *By the end of next week, Emma will have been working as a journalist for three months.*
- *By the time they graduate from university, they will have been studying English for fifteen years.*

journalist 'dʒɜːnəlɪst / 'dʒɜːrnəlɪst | dziennikarz

to graduate from university | ukończyć uniwersytet

■ Be + going to

Although this structure doesn't have a proper name like the previously mentioned tenses, it's commonly used while expressing the future.

Be going to may be used:

when you predict a future situation on the basis of the evidence you have or can see.

Look at this dark sky and heavy clouds! It's going to rain today!

If you think the car is going to break down, we should take the bus then.

when you talk about intentions and plans made before the time of speaking:

- *I'm going to pinpoint all the problems of the company in a meeting with my boss.*
- *She's going to stay a couple of days at her friend's in Germany next month.*

previously 'priːviəsli | uprzednio, wcześniej

to break down | zepsuć się

to pinpoint sth | s/precyzować, dokładnie określić coś

a couple of days | kilka dni

Talking about events in the near future, we should differentiate between Present Continuous and be + going to. Compare:

- *I'm going to start my journey to Asia in May.* (This is what I intend to do, but it is not yet certain.)
- *I'm starting my journey to Asia in May.* (This is arranged and certain, I have tickets and accommodation booked).

We should also be aware of the fact that we can use both be + going to and Future Simple while talking about predictions based on the same information. The meaning is very similar:

- *I believe it's going to be very difficult to make her speak her mind.* She's so shy.
- *I believe it will be very difficult to make her speak her mind.* She's so shy.

to differentiate between sth and sth | rozróżnić coś od czegoś

to intend | mieć zamiar, zamierzać

accommodation

| zakwaterowanie

booked | zarezerwowany

to be aware of sth | być

świadomym czegoś

meaning | znaczenie

to speak one's mind | wyrazić swoje zdanie



Exercise 1

Match the sentence halves:

1. Look how rainy it is outside,	a. at 4 pm.
2. We will leave without you	b. I guess we'll stay home today.
3. I have lots of plans for the weekend. First of all,	c. if you don't hurry up.
4. The train leaves	d. in two hours.
5. The plane is leaving	e. I'm visiting my grandma.

Exercise 2

1. The bus _____ (to arrive) at 11:30.
2. We _____ (to have) lunch at this new Italian restaurant on Sunday.
3. It _____ (to snow) in Warsaw tomorrow morning.
4. On Sunday at 8 o'clock, I _____ (to meet) my boyfriend.
5. George _____ (to fly) to Madrid on Tuesday morning.
6. Wait! I _____ (to help) you with the luggage.
7. The lesson _____ (to start) at 9.00. I'm so excited!
8. I _____ (to see) my family in August.
9. Look at the clouds – it _____ (to rain) in a few minutes.
10. By the time they _____ (to get) married in July, they _____ (to be) together for six years.
11. Your bag looks so heavy. I _____ (to open) the door for you.
12. Do you think the headmaster _____ (to announce) his decision by Monday morning?
13. I _____ (to buy) fruit and vegetables from the grocery shop when it _____ (to open).
14. Before we _____ (to start) our meeting, we _____ (to have to) draw conclusions on the basis of the results.
15. I'm very sorry, Mr Smith _____ (not be) back in the office until 2pm.
16. This summer, I _____ (to work) in Warsaw for four years.
17. I don't think you _____ (to struggle) with English when you land in London.
18. Anna's baby should be due in a couple of days, by next week she _____ (to be) pregnant for nine months.
19. By the time Tim gets to the pub, they _____ (to play) football for 30 minutes.
20. In three years I _____ (to study) medicine abroad.
21. When you _____ (to get) off the bus, Susie _____ (to wait) for you by the ticket machine.
22. _____ (to take) your husband with you to Ireland?
23. This time next week, I _____ (ski) in France!
24. Now, I _____ (to mark) my students' tests.
25. The performance _____ at 7 pm tomorrow.

Modal verbs for the future

Most of the future tenses already use modal verbs because they use 'will'. If you need to use a different modal verb, such as 'can' or 'should', do it normally with the infinitive form of the verb:

- *I can hang out at the weekend.*
- *Should I start studying Physics next year?*

Modal verbs can refer to future situations perfectly. Let's take a look at two more examples:

- *Dave might come over next weekend.* (It is possible that this will happen). You can also use may or could to express future possibility.
- *You must finish the test before the end of the lesson.* (You are obliged to finish the report.)

Other forms

■ Be + to + infinitive

This form is not common in informal language. It expresses something that is to happen in the future as a plan usually set by some authority other than the subject of the sentence. These are usually official events and formal arrangements:

- *The Prime Minister is to fly to Budapest this evening for the Climate Change Conference.*
- *The First Lady is to open a new hospital in Paris later this evening.*

We can also see this form in official instructions and orders. When used in the negative form, it expresses prohibition.

- *All employees are to attend an induction day at the end of the week.*
- *You are not to leave this meeting until I say so.*

set | ustalony

Prime Minister | premier

prohibition | zakaz

employee *ɪm'plɔɪi*; | pracownik

induction | *tu*: wprowadzenie (dla nowych pracowników)



■ Be about to

We often use *be about to* + *infinitive* to say that something will happen in the very near future.

- *Some products are about to disappear from the market.*
- *Scientists say they are about to find a cure for cancer.*

to disappear tə ,dɪsə'piə(r) / ,dɪsə'piɪ | znikać

■ Be on the brink/verge/point of

All the phrases are used to say that something will happen very soon.

- *Our country's economy is on the brink of heading into a recession.*
- *This historical museum is on the brink of closing down because of lack of funding.*
- *They are on the verge of becoming a benchmark on the market.*
- *The two companies are on the point of reaching an agreement.*

to be on the brink/verge/point of | być o krok od
benchmark | tu: standard, norma

■ Be due to

We use *be due to* + *infinitive* to talk about things that are planned or expected to happen.

- *She is due to give birth at the end of May.*
- *The Prime Minister is due to leave for the conference tomorrow morning.*

■ if clauses

We also often use *be to* + *infinitive* in an if-clause to talk about future possibilities. In these cases, we say what should be done (main clause) to achieve the desired result (if-clause).

- *We need to meet at least a few more times if we are to avoid repeating the same mistake.*
- *If Jane is to succeed, she will need to focus and work harder.*

at least | przynajmniej

to focus | skupić się, skoncentrować się

Be bound to / be likely to

We use *be bound to* + *infinitive* to say that something is certain or very likely to happen. We use *be likely to* + *infinitive* to talk about things which will probably happen:

- *They are bound to get to know him. He is also attending a party next week.*
- *His new film is bound to receive rave reviews from the critics.*
- *The government is likely to introduce a new tax law as of January.*
- *It's likely that John will have to make up for the time off work.*

(the structure: it is + likely + that)

We use *be unlikely* + *infinitive* to say that something will probably not happen.

- *She is unlikely to get a bonus at work .*
- *It's unlikely that the company's turnover rate will get lower.*

tax law | prawo podatkowe

to make up for sth | nadrobić coś

turnover rate | wskaźnik rotacji pracowników

Exercise 3

Rewrite the sentences using the words in brackets.

1. I'm sure he will face some tough questions in court. (bound)
He _____ in court.
2. I don't think they will have reached their destination yet. (unlikely)
I think they _____
3. I expect she'll be awarded an Oscar for this role. (likely)
I think she _____
4. He will sign a new contract with his previous employer's competitor in the next few days. (verge)
He _____
5. The 50-storey building will be demolished later today. (about)
The 50-storey building _____

Answer Keys

Exercise 1

1. Look how rainy it is outside, I guess we'll stay home today.
2. We will leave without you, if you don't hurry up.
3. I have lots of plans for the weekend. First of all, I'm visiting my grandma
4. The train leaves at 4 pm.
5. The plane is leaving in two hours.

Exercise 2

1. The bus arrives at 11:30.
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Exercise 3

1. He is bound to face some tough questions in court.
2. I think they are unlikely to have arrived at their destination yet.
3. I think she is likely to be awarded an Oscar for this role.
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5. The 50-storey building is about to be demolished.

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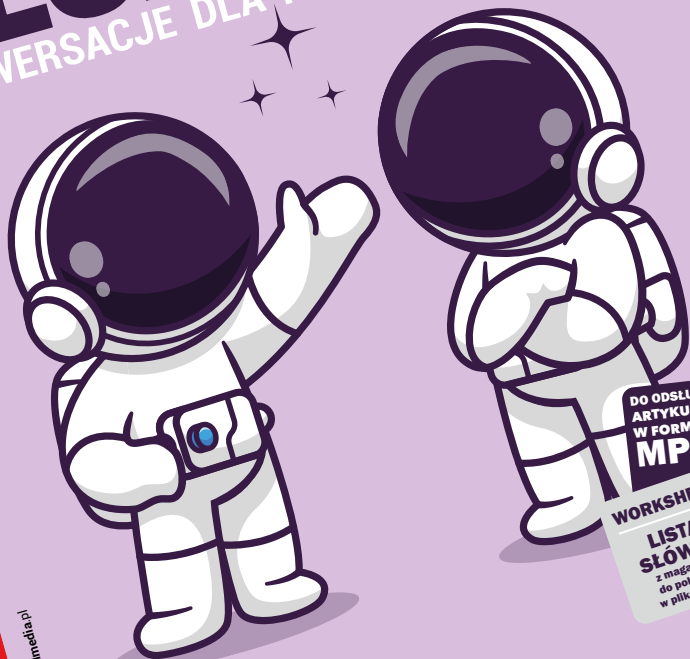
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