

FUTURE TENSES

We use **TO BE GOING TO**:

- FOR INTENTIONS:
I'm going to study hard this term.
Are you going to phone your mother tonight?
I'm not going to cook tonight.
- FOR IMMINENT SITUATIONS BASED ON EXTERNAL EVIDENCE:
There are black clouds in the sky. It's going to rain.

We use **WILL**:

- FOR FUTURE PREDICTIONS BASED ON WHAT YOU THINK:
I think John will come to the party.
I hope he won't be afraid of spiders.

(It's often used with the expressions *I hope, I think, I'm sure, in my opinion*)

We can also use adverbs such as *probably, certainly, definitely, maybe*.
NOTICE THE POSITION: I will certainly go to the swimming pool.
I won't definitely invite Carol.
- FOR SPONTANEOUS DECISIONS (and also for offers, requests and promises):
I'm thirsty. I'll have a coke.
I'll send you the e-mail as soon as possible, I promise.
Will you open the window, please?
- FOR INEVITABLE FUTURE FACTS:
John will be 50 in July.

We use the **PRESENT CONTINUOUS** with a future meaning:

- FOR FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS:
We are going to the cinema tonight at 8.00.
I'm meeting Richard on Tuesday.

(It's often used with these time expressions: this morning/afternoon, tomorrow morning....., next Monday/ week/ month...)

We use the **PRESENT SIMPLE** with a future meaning:

- FOR TIMETABLES AND SCHEDULES:

What time does the flight leave? It leaves at 4.00.

The concert starts at 6.00 pm.

BE CAREFUL!

In sentences that talk about the future and are introduced by *if, when, as soon as, after, before, until* we use the **present simple**:

I'll go out **if** it is sunny

When it's sunny I'll go out.

As soon as it's sunny I'll go out.

After I finish my homework, I'll go out.

Before it starts raining I'll go out.

I'll read **until** he comes back.