Volkshochschule Rhein-Sieg

Tenses

Future tenses (future 1)

Claudia **will meet** her friends at the weekend.

Sarah **is going to meet** her friends at the weekend.

Jens **is meeting** his friends at 6 o'clock.

Marcia's party **starts** at 6 o'clock.

Tenses

Future 1

Note: Though a bit old-fashioned the use of **shall** for the 1st person singular and plural is still in use:
*I **shall** be happy.*
*We **shall** see.*

The **will future** is used to talk about hopes, fears, expectations, promises, and the like. It is also used to talk about future actions that we are not in control of, and with phrases beginning *I think*.

I will be happy to help you.

Sharon says she will think about it.

I think it will snow tomorrow.

The **going to future** is used to talk about things you intend, decide or arrange to do. It is also used to describe events you know will happen for sure.

Michael is going to invite Susan to his birthday party.
We are going to visit our parents tomorrow.

The **present progressive** is used to describe things that are planned or definitely decided.

What are you doing next week?

I'm seeing my boss tomorrow.

The **present simple** is used for arrival and departure times and the times of future events.

My flight leaves at 6 o'clock

The concert starts at 8.

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Tenses

Future 1

Note: The differences between the **will/shall** future, **going to** future and **present progressive/continuous** are marginal.
The decision which of the three versions to use is mainly dependent on the speaker's personal assessment of the future situation.

2. Halbjahr 2026
English Intensive Week A2 Refresher
262-40691, Mo - Fr, 08.45 – 14.00 Uhr

vhs Volkshochschule Rhein-Sieg

The future

Complete with the correct form of the verbs in brackets to express the future:

I think it (to rain) tomorrow.

*I think it **will rain** tomorrow.*

We (to spend) our next holiday in Italy.

*We **are going to** spend our next holiday in Italy.*

David (to meet) customers this afternoon.

*.David **is meeting** customers this afternoon.*

The train (to leave) at 7.30 pm.

*The train **leaves** at 7.30 pm.*

He (not, to come).

*He **won't/will not** come.*

Translate:

Das wird nicht funktionieren.

*That **won't/will** not work..*

Die Tagesschau beginnt um acht Uhr.

*The Tagesschau **starts** at eight o'clock..*

Wenn es nicht regnet, fahren wir morgen nach Köln.

*If it doesn't rain tomorrow we **are going to** go to Cologne..*