

Talking about the Future in English



SAMPLE CHAPTER

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Published by Really Learn English

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Talking about the Future in English

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Future Review Table

Tense	Uses	Examples
Present progressive	Arrangements	I <u>am meeting</u> Eliza at 4:00 tomorrow afternoon. Rick <u>is not attending</u> the meeting. <u>Is</u> Julia <u>coming</u> to the event?
Be going to	Intentions	I <u>am going to start</u> eating healthier foods. We <u>are not going to miss</u> a single episode this season! <u>Are you going to clean</u> your room?
	Predictions based on current circumstances	Be careful! You <u>are going to spill</u> your tea! There are no clouds in the sky. It <u>is not going to rain</u> . The light is red. <u>Is</u> the car <u>going to stop</u> ?
Simple future	Promises	I <u>will pay</u> you back tomorrow. We <u>will not forget</u> Mom's birthday. <u>Will</u> you <u>take</u> the dog for a walk? *
	Instant decisions	I am bored. I <u>will take</u> a short break. It is too cold. I <u>will not go</u> outside. <u>Will</u> you <u>have</u> juice or tea? *
	Predictions	I think you <u>will enjoy</u> this book. Caroline <u>will not arrive</u> on time. <u>Will</u> people <u>take</u> vacations in space someday?
	Future facts	Wendy <u>will be</u> 30 next week. The sun <u>will not set</u> before 7:00 tomorrow evening. What time <u>will</u> the sun <u>rise</u> tomorrow?
Simple present	Time tables and schedules	All aboard! The train <u>leaves</u> in five minutes. Academic activities <u>do not begin</u> until February. <u>Does</u> Theodore's plane <u>arrive</u> soon?

*Logically, we cannot make promises or instant decisions in English in question form. When we use **will** in these situations in questions, as shown in the table, we are really making polite offers or polite requests.

In the first example, we ask someone politely to do something. They will then promise (or instantly decide) to do what we ask.

For example:

- Will you take the dog for a walk?

Yes, I will take him for a walk.

(This can be understood as an instant decision or a promise.)

In the second example, we make a polite offer. The person we are speaking to will then make an instant decision. For example:

- Will you have juice or tea?

I will have tea, thank you.

(This is an instant decision.)



The Future with the Present Progressive

The present progressive is a form of the verb that can show the action will happen in the future. We use it to talk about:

- **Arrangements**

An arrangement is a specific plan that we have for the future. We have taken real steps to be sure we achieve this plan.

For example:

- I am having lunch with my aunt at 12:30 today.
(I called her and we both agreed on the time.)
- We are flying to France on the 28th.
(We bought the tickets.)
- Owen is seeing the dentist next Tuesday.
(He made an appointment to see the dentist.)
- We are having a family reunion next week.
(We invited everyone and arranged a place.)
- Rita is starting an art class this month.
(She already reserved a spot in the class.)
- Paul and I are going to a concert tonight.
(We bought the tickets.)
- The company is launching their new product next month.
(They announced it and scheduled an event.)

Present Progressive Rules

Positive Sentences

Who?	Form of verb		Examples
I	am	verb + ing	I am talking.
He/She/It	is		She is talking.
You/We/They	are		You are talking.

Negative Sentences

Who?	Form of verb			Examples
I	am	not	verb + ing	I am not talking.
He/She/It	is			He is not talking.
You/We/They	are			We are not talking.

Question Sentences

Form of verb	Form of verb		Examples
Am	I	verb + ing	Am I talking?
Is	he/she/it		Is she talking?
Are	you/we/they		Are they talking?

Contractions with Am/Is/Are

When we use the present progressive in English, we use the verb “be.”

Most native speakers use contractions with “am/is/are” when they are speaking. If they are writing something formal, they use “I am/He is/We are,” but if they are speaking or write something informal, they almost always prefer a contraction.

I am	→	I’m
He is	→	He’s
She is	→	She’s
It is	→	It’s
You are	→	You’re
They are	→	They’re
We are	→	We’re

When we are using the negative form of “be going to”, it is very common to use a contraction. Again, if we are writing something formal, we use the full form, but in most cases of spoken English, we use the contractions in the table.

Here are the contractions with **be** and **not**:

I am not	→	I’m not
He is not	→	He’s not / He isn’t
She is not	→	She’s not / She isn’t
It is not	→	It’s not / It isn’t
You are not	→	You’re not / You aren’t
They are not	→	They’re not / They aren’t
We are not	→	We’re not / We aren’t

Your Turn

Write the contractions.

I am	_____	You are	_____	He is	_____
She is	_____	It is	_____	We are	_____
They are	_____	I am not	_____	She is not	_____
It is not	_____	We are not	_____	They are not	_____



Exercise 1

Change the following positive arrangements into negative sentences.

1. We are leaving for our holiday on Thursday afternoon.

2. I am meeting with Ms. Keller at 3:00pm.

3. Liam is coming to the office today for the training session.

4. Aunt Liz is taking us out for dinner tomorrow night.

5. We are getting married on June 12th.

6. Will is buying a car next month.

7. I am taking a trip next week.

8. We are moving this weekend.

9. Gwen is having a big party on Saturday.

10. Shawn is running in a marathon this summer.

11. I am picking Claire up at the airport in three hours.

12. They are going to the opera on Thursday evening.

Exercise 2

Read the following information. Then write what the arrangement is.

1. Jean and Erica agreed to have dinner together. They will meet at their favorite restaurant at 6:30pm.

1. Nora bought a bus ticket to travel to a nearby city tomorrow morning.

2. Peter bought a new house and planned his move for next week.

3. Helen planned a trip to visit her new boyfriend's home city. She does not know his family. It will be the first time she meets them!

4. Ursula's daughter will graduate next week. She made arrangements to travel to the university and attend the graduation ceremony.

Exercise 3

Look at the following pictures and read the sentences. Write what the arrangement is.

1. Wendy plays the drums in a band. Their first concert is scheduled for this Friday night.



2. Tim prepared all the information. He invited the managers to a meeting today.



3. Rachel chose a kitten to give to her twins. She arranged to give it to them on their birthday.



4. Harriet was hired by a big company. They asked her to start work on Monday.



5. Gretchen and Fran arranged to meet for coffee at 4:15pm.



6. Paula and Stephen bought their tickets to travel to Prague on the 6th.



7. Terrence reserved the tennis court to practice at 7:30am tomorrow.



Future with Present Progressive Story

Before Reading

A) Look at the title of the story and the picture. What do you think this story is about?

B) Match the words in column A to the words in column B. (There can be more than one correct answer.)

Column A

live
share
reserve
make
make
attend
have
clean
take
help

Column B

arrangements
us
university
a tour
the apartment
expenses
tickets
together
reservations
a plan

Column A

get
meet
stay
drive
go
stay
have
pick
come
be

Column B

in
to
up
with
nervous
time
to
confused
with
here

Column A

this
older
study
special
living
art
parents'
cleaning
guided
dirty

Column B

sister
exhibition
room
weekend
visit
group
tour
dishes
gallery
service

C) After these exercises, what do you think this story is about?

Future with Present Progressive Story

A Wonderful Plan



Allison and Nate, a brother and sister, live together in an apartment. They attend university in the same city, so they live together to share expenses. Their parents live in a different city, but they **are visiting** their children this weekend. In fact, they **are arriving** at the airport in about an hour!

Nate and his older sister talk about all the arrangements they made for their parents' visit.

"Okay, so we **are going** to the concert tonight, right?" Nate asks.

"That is right," Allison replies. "We **are seeing** the orchestra at 7:00pm."

"**Are we going** to the museum tomorrow, then?" her brother asks.

"Yes, I reserved tickets for the special exhibition on mummies," Allison says.

"**Are you coming** with us or **are you meeting** with your study group?"

"No, I **am definitely going** with you to the museum," Nate answers. "I love mummies! All right, so we **are picking** Mom and Dad up in about an hour."

"Yes, I **am leaving** in five minutes," Allison says.

Nate is confused. "What do you mean? We **are both going**, right?"

"Of course not!" Allison laughs. "Look at this place! I was very busy making all the reservations and getting all the tickets. We did not clean at all!"

"Oh no, you are right!" Nate looks at the messy living room and remembers all the dirty dishes in the kitchen. "What will we do?"

“Do not worry, my dear brother,” Allison says, smiling. “You know I always have a plan.”

“**Is** a cleaning service **coming**?” Nate asks. “**Are** Mom and Dad **staying** in a hotel?”

“No, silly!” Allison replies. “No one **is coming** to help us clean.”

“Then what is your wonderful plan? What **are we doing** to get the apartment clean? Mom and Dad **are arriving** in just forty-five minutes!” Now Nate is getting really nervous.

“Not to worry,” Allison reassures her brother. “I **am driving** to the airport to pick them up, and then we **are all going** to a new art gallery that just opened. We **are taking** a guided tour for an hour.”

“How does an art gallery tour get the house clean?” Nate wonders.

“That does not clean the house! Remember that you **are staying** here, little brother,” Allison says, giving him a hug before she walks to the door. “This way you will have lots of time! I **am going** out to have fun with Mom and Dad because I am a wonderful daughter, and you **are staying** here to clean the whole apartment because you are a wonderful son!”

Future with Present Progressive Story

After Reading

Grammar—Correct Form of the Verb

A) This is a copy of the original story. Go over it and fill in the blanks with the right form of every verb.

Allison and Nate, a brother and sister, live together in an apartment. They attend university in the same city, so they live together to share expenses.

Their parents live in a different city, but they _____ their children this weekend. In fact, they _____ at the airport in about an hour!

Nate and his older sister talk about all the arrangements they made for their parents' visit.

"Okay, so we _____ to the concert tonight, right?"

Nate asks.

"That is right," Allison replies. "We _____ the orchestra at 7:00pm."

"_____ to the museum tomorrow, then?" her brother asks.

“Yes, I reserved tickets for the special exhibition on mummies,” Allison says.

“ _____ with us or _____
with your study group?”

“No, I _____ (definitely) with you to the museum,”

Nate answers. “I love mummies! All right, so we

_____ Mom and Dad up in about an hour.”

“Yes, I _____ in five minutes,” Allison says.

Nate is confused. “What do you mean? We _____

(both), right?”

“Of course not!” Allison laughs. “Look at this place! I was very busy making all the reservations and getting all the tickets. We did not clean at all!”

“Oh no, you are right!” Nate looks at the messy living room and remembers all the dirty dishes in the kitchen. “What will we do?”

“Do not worry, my dear brother,” Allison says, smiling. “You know I always have a plan.”

“ _____ (a cleaning service)?” Nate asks.

“ _____ (Mom and Dad) in a hotel?”

“No, silly!” Allison replies. “No one _____ to help us clean.”

“Then what is your wonderful plan? What _____ (we) to get the apartment clean? Mom and Dad _____ in just forty-five minutes!” Now Nate is getting really nervous.

“Not to worry,” Allison reassures her brother. “I _____ to the airport to pick them up, and then we _____ (all) to a new art gallery that just opened. We _____ a guided tour for an hour.”

“How does an art gallery tour get the house clean?” Nate wonders.

“That does not clean the house! Remember that you _____ here, little brother,” Allison says, giving him a hug before she walks to the door. “This way you will have lots of time! I _____ out to have fun with Mom and Dad because I am a wonderful daughter, and you _____ here to clean the whole apartment because you are a wonderful son!”

Vocabulary—Find the Right Word

B) Read the description and write down what it is. Use the box below for help.

visit	apartment	concert	museum	ticket
hotel	airport	art gallery	tour	hug

1. It is when you go to see someone. What is it? _____
2. It is when you hold someone in your arms. What is it? _____
3. It is a place you live inside a building. Other people live in the same building with you, but you have your own space. What is it? _____
4. It is a scheduled event when musicians play. What is it? _____
5. It is a place where you can go to see old objects and art and learn about them. What is it? _____
6. It is a piece of paper that lets you attend an event.
What is it? _____
7. It is a place where you can stay to sleep when you are traveling.
What is it? _____
8. It is when someone shows you around a place and tells you about it.
What is it? _____
9. It is where airplanes arrive and leave from. What is it? _____
10. It is a place where art is shown and sold. What is it? _____

Grammar—Arrangements

C) Write eight examples of arrangements from the story.

1. _____
_____.
2. _____
_____.
3. _____
_____.
4. _____
_____.
5. _____
_____.
6. _____
_____.
7. _____
_____.
8. _____
_____.

Grammar—Positive and Negative Sentences

E) Turn the following sentences into negative sentences.

1. They are arriving at the airport in an hour.

2. We are going to the concert tonight.

3. I am leaving in five minutes.

F) Turn the following sentences into positive sentences.

1. Is a cleaning service coming?

2. You are not staying here to clean the apartment.

3. Are we going to the museum tomorrow?

Comprehension

G) Answer the following questions.

1. Allison made arrangements to see the orchestra at a specific time. What does she say?

2. Nate asks when they arranged to go to the museum. What does he say?

3. Nate asks if Allison arranged for a service to help clean. What does he say?

4. Allison asks what her brother arranged for tomorrow. What does she say?

Essay Writing

H) Answer the following questions. Write a short essay for each.

1. Allison and Nate arranged lots of activities with their parents. What arrangements do you have for this week?

2. Imagine that you are their mother or father. Talk about the arrangements for your trip. When are you arriving? What are you doing with your kids during your visit?

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Our expertise is creating simple yet effective learning aids for teachers and students.

These resources were created by myself and my team of expert teachers and writers. They are carefully designed to improve the teaching process and make it more effective.

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