



Why not learn verb tenses based on how we use them?

Here we'll see typical uses in future.

Learn Verbs Upside Down: Future

When we study verbs teachers generally introduce tenses by explaining—for instance—that “The present perfect can be used for actions in the past very near the present, as in I've just finished lunch or Henry has recently been ill.”

Why not look at *what* we want to say and then look for the tense that best reflects our idea? It's easier and makes more sense. Here are some common ways to describe things in the future using different tenses.

Far future

We will have flying cars by 2050.

How to say that something will happen in the far future? Next year for instance or whenever you think is still far. Use the simple future with *will*,

as in “Our country will be independent before the end of this century” or “They will launch the new product the year after next.”

The simple future is one of the easiest tenses to make because it's done with *will* plus an *infinitive*: “I will *travel* to Mars when flights are cheap enough” or “Jerry will open his bakery after the summer.”

Now, here's something important. The notion of the future is not the same for everyone. Therefore, you tell people whether something is near or far by choosing one verbal form. If you say “They will find a solution” you believe the solution will take longer than if you say “They are going to find a solution”. Go on reading.

Near future

I'm going to say hi to the new neighbour.

If you wish to talk about the near future you can use *going to*. “I'm going to visit Gregory this evening” or “The machine is going to reach full capacity soon.”

This tense is also easy. It's made with *going to* plus an *infinitive*: “Cheap flights are already available so I am going to travel to Mars next week.”

Immediate future

I'm coming in a second.

Are you about to do something? You can use the present continuous for the very near future: “I'm arriving in two minutes”, “You're speaking next so get ready now” or “I'm starting my project immediately.”

The present continuous, as we have already seen, is built with the verb *to be* plus the *-ing* form. “I'm finishing right now” or “She's joining the meeting in a moment.”

Promises

We will try our best.

We sometimes make a decision now that will affect our future and we say what we will do, as in a promise. We use will for these cases, as in “I will study harder for my next test, mum” or “We’ll beat our competitors no matter what”.

Different times in future

He will have finished his degree before the end of next year.

Sometimes we need to talk about things that happen at different times in the future. Imagine two events where one is necessary for another to take place as “We will have finished phase one before we start phase two”. This sentence has been constructed in future perfect. Other cases? When we want to speak about events that happen at different moments. “John will have retired by the time we open the Bonn factory” or “The race will have already finished by 10.00 PM”.

We make the future perfect with *will have* plus a *past participle*: “We will have driven two hundred miles before midnight.”

Want to know more about tenses?

Visit this link to learn how to say things in present:

<http://www.englishfb.com/learn-verbs-the-other-way-round/>



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