

Will (1)

A We use I'll (= I will) when we decide to do something at the time of speaking:

- Oh, I left the door open. I'll go and shut it.
- "What would you like to drink?" "I'll have some orange juice, please."
- "Did you call Julie?" "Oh no, I forgot. I'll call her now."

You cannot use the *simple present* (I do / I go, etc.) in these sentences:

- I'll go and shut the door. (*not* I go and shut)

We often use I think I'll . . . and I don't think I'll . . . :

- I'm a little hungry. I think I'll have something to eat.
- I don't think I'll go out tonight. I'm too tired.

In spoken English, the negative of will is usually won't (= will not):

- I can see you're busy, so I won't stay long.

B Do not use will to talk about what you have already decided or arranged to do (see Units 18–19):

- I'm leaving on vacation next Saturday. (*not* I'll leave)
- Are you working tomorrow? (*not* Will you work)

C We often use will in these situations:

Offering to do something

- That bag looks heavy. I'll help you with it. (*not* I help)

Agreeing to do something

- A: You know that book I lent you? Could I have it back if you're finished with it?
B: Of course. I'll give it to you this afternoon. (*not* I give)

Promising to do something

- Thanks for lending me the money. I'll pay you back on Friday. (*not* I pay)
- I won't tell anyone what happened. I promise.

Asking somebody to do something (Will you . . . ?)

- Will you please be quiet? I'm trying to concentrate.
- Will you shut the door, please?

You can use won't to say that somebody refuses to do something:

- I've tried to give her advice, but she won't listen. (= she refuses to listen)
- The car won't start. I wonder what's wrong with it. (= the car "refuses" to start)

D Shall I . . . ? Shall we . . . ?

Shall is used in the questions Shall I . . . ? / Shall we . . . ? to ask somebody's opinion (especially in offers or suggestions):

- Shall I open the window? (= do you want me to open the window?)
- "Where shall we have lunch?" "Let's go to Marino's."

We also use should in the same situations:

- Should I open the window?
- Where should we have lunch?

Exercises

20.1 Complete the sentences with *I'll* + an appropriate verb.

1. I'm too tired to walk home. I think *I'll take* _____ a taxi.
2. "It's a little cold in this room." "You're right. _____ on the heat."
3. "We don't have any milk." "We don't? _____ and get some."
4. "I don't know how to use this computer." "OK, _____ you."
5. "Would you like tea or coffee?" "_____ coffee, please."
6. "Good-bye! Have a nice trip." "Thanks. _____ you a postcard."
7. Thanks for lending me your camera. _____ it back to you on Monday, OK?
8. "Are you coming with us?" "No, I think _____ here."

20.2 Read the situations and write sentences with *I think I'll . . .* or *I don't think I'll . . .*

1. It's a little cold. You decide to close the window. You say:
I think I'll close the window.
2. You're tired, and it's getting late. You decide to go to bed. You say:
I think _____.
3. A friend of yours offers you a ride in his car, but you decide to walk. You say:
Thank you, but I think _____.
4. You arranged to play tennis today. Now you decide that you don't want to play. You say:
I don't think _____.
5. You were going to go swimming. Now you decide that you don't want to go. You say:
_____.

20.3 Which is correct? (If necessary, study Units 18–19 first.)

1. "Did you call Julie?" "Oh no, I forgot. I call / I'll call her now." (*I'll call* is correct.)
2. I can't meet you tomorrow afternoon. I'm playing / I'll play tennis. (*I'm playing* is correct.)
3. "I meet / I'll meet you outside the hotel in half an hour, OK?" "Yes, that's fine."
4. "I need some money." "OK, I'm lending / I'll lend you some. How much do you need?"
5. I'm having / I'll have a party next Saturday. I hope you can come.
6. "Remember to get a newspaper when you go out." "OK. I don't forget / I won't forget."
7. What time does your train leave / will your train leave tomorrow?
8. I asked Sue what happened, but she doesn't tell / won't tell me.
9. "Are you doing / Will you do anything tomorrow evening?" "No, I'm free. Why?"
10. I don't want to go out alone. Do you come / Will you come with me?

20.4 Complete the sentences with *I'll* / *I won't* / *Shall I . . . ?* / *Shall we . . . ?* + an appropriate verb.

1. A: Where *shall we have* _____ lunch?
B: Let's go to the new restaurant on North Street.
2. A: It's Mark's birthday soon, and I have to get him a present. What _____ him?
B: I don't know. I never know what to give people.
3. A: Do you want me to put these things away?
B: No, it's OK. _____ it later.
4. A: Let's go out tonight.
B: OK, where _____ ?
5. A: What I've told you is a secret. I don't want anybody else to know.
B: Don't worry. _____ anybody else.
6. A: I know you're busy, but can you finish this report this afternoon?
B: Well, _____, but I can't promise.