

Refresh your memory

Future forms

will + do*I'll open the window.*

instant decisions,

predictions, future facts

going to + do*It's going to rain.*

plans & intentions,

prediction based on

present situation

is / are doing*I'm seeing the doctor at**10.30.*

fixed arrangements for

the future

▶ Grammar reference page 130

Expressing likelihood

▶ Grammar reference page 131

7.3 Grammar Future forms and expressing likelihood

Test yourself: Future forms

1 Underline the best future forms (*will* or *going to*) in the dialogue.

- A: What do you think of Artip Laboratories? Iticom are meeting Artip's Board of Directors: they (1) **will / are going to** make a takeover bid.
 B: I know. But Artip are losing millions. Everybody can see what's coming: they (2) **will / are going to** go bankrupt.
 A: Iticom obviously don't agree. Perhaps they think that with new management and fresh capital, Artip (3) **will / are going to** have a second chance.
 B: Hm. Well, I'm sure they're wrong. Anyway, I've already discussed it with my broker. (4) **I'll sell / I'm going to sell** my Iticom shares.
 A: Really? You're sure? In that case, maybe (5) **I'll sell / I'm going to sell** mine, too.

2 Decide which sentence in each pair uses the wrong future form (in **bold**) and correct it.

- 1a) Kylton Electronics **are launching** a new home entertainment system on the 15th.
 b) Hundreds of journalists have blocked a whole week, because Kylton **will fly** them to Hawaii for the launch.
 2a) The system's specifications are top secret; Kylton **will not release** any details until the launch.
 b) Experts believe the product **is taking** the home-entertainment market by storm next quarter.
 3a) 'Lots of celebrities are coming to our launch party,' said a distributor. 'Everybody will be here except the President, because he **will attend** a conference in Italy.'
 b) 'We **are going to fly** 20,000 units in the day before the launch.'
 4a) Kylton have already threatened they **are prosecuting** any pirates.
 b) However, copycat products **will no doubt be** on sale by December.

Test yourself: Expressing likelihood

3 Match the two parts of the forecasts and estimate how probable it is that each event will happen, from 0% (= totally impossible) to 100% (= absolutely certain).

50%	1 We have a 50/50 chance	be sold.
20%	2 We're unlikely to	of success.
	3 There's no way my boss	get a better offer.
	4 Artip will definitely	will agree.
	5 Costs are rising: it's possible our competitors	will deliver by next week.
	6 It's going to be a tough negotiation, but they might just	will put their prices up.
	7 It's in everybody's interest: the merger will definitely	accept our offer.
	8 There's not much chance our suppliers	go ahead.
	9 You did a good job: you're almost certain to	find common ground.
	10 Their cultures are different, but I suppose they could	come down.
	11 Wait a few months, the asking price is bound to	'll meet the deadline.
	12 There's a good chance we	get a raise.
	13 It's highly likely that taxes	get the job.
	14 It's still uncertain, but they may	will increase.
	15 Chris has all the right qualifications: she's likely to	increase.
	16 In the months to come, we fully expect sales to	announce a merger.



Internet research

Search for the keywords *Alvin Toffler* to find out about this leading futurist and his company's work

Discussion

4 Work in groups of three. You are futurists. Choose a column each, A, B or C. Prepare a one-minute presentation discussing the likelihood of each event happening by 2050. Using the expressions in **bold** in 3, take turns to present your views, answer questions and defend your ideas.

A	B	C
Everyone will work from home.	Everyone will go back to university every ten years.	Nobody will work more than three days a week.
There will be a single world currency.	Mobile cities will be built on the oceans.	Virtual offices will be accessible from anywhere in the world.
There will be hotels and conference centres on the moon.	The majority of senior managers will be women.	Chinese will be the language of business.

Listening

5 **3:03** Listen to a conversation between two friends at a party, and mark the future events in the box *U* (unlikely) or *P* (planned).

- go freelance
- start evening classes
- stay at Artip
- find a new job
- Artip take-over
- read the job ads
- give up smoking and drinking
- retrain as a marketing assistant

Which arrangement has Ashley forgotten to mention?

Discussion

6 With a partner, discuss your plans, intentions and hopes for the future. Talk about:

- the rest of the day
- this evening
- tomorrow
- the weekend
- next week
- next month
- next holidays
- next term
- next year
- your next job
- the next 25 years
- your retirement. (It's never too soon to plan ahead!)