

Future tenses

We use different future tenses for different functions.

will	
Predictions (based on belief / opinion)	We'll win the World Cup. It'll be a fun day.
Promises	I won't tell anyone. I'll email you tomorrow.
Spontaneous decisions	I'll speak to the publisher. I'll open the window.
be going to	
Predictions (based on external evidence)	There's going to be a scandal! Look at the sky. It's going to rain soon.
Intentions	I'm going to call him now. We're going to see our aunt at the weekend.
Present simple	
Events on timetables	The news starts in ten minutes. The train leaves at 12.20.
Present continuous	
Fixed future plans	We're moving to Scotland. She isn't coming to my party tonight.

There are different ways to talk about the future in English. We use *be going to* for things we are sure about, possibly because there is some present evidence.
It's going to rain. (I know because I can see dark clouds in the sky).

We use the present progressive to talk about plans which have already been decided.
I'm meeting Lucy later.

The present progressive and *be going to* are more informal, and are common when we're speaking.

We use the present simple to talk about events which are on a timetable or a regular schedule.
I've got to go. The bus leaves at 10.00! (It leaves at this time every day.)
Hurry up, the show starts at seven. (The show is scheduled to start at 7.00.)

We use *will* when we are making predictions about the future, to talk about things which are not already planned, and when we make promises.
That bag looks heavy, I'll help you. (Spontaneous decision)
I'll call you when I get home. (Promise)

Present perfect

We use the present perfect with *already*, *just* and *yet* to talk about recent events and actions.

We use *just* in affirmative sentences to talk about very recent events or actions.

She's just won the match.
They've just made a big announcement.

We use *yet* in questions and negative sentences to talk about actions and events happening up to now.

Have you finished that book yet?
I haven't made a decision yet.

We use *already* in affirmative sentences to talk about actions and events that happened before now or earlier than expected.

I've already visited three universities.
Spring has already arrived in Madrid!

We use the present perfect with *for* to talk about the period of time up to the present.

The company has been in business for four years.

We use *since* to talk about the time when an activity started. This can be a date, a day, a month, a time or an event.

I've been here since 8 a.m.
I haven't seen you since the wedding

Future tenses

1 ★ Match the sentences with the uses.

- Are they going to arrive early for the exam? c
- 1 The bus departs at 8.00 today. ____
- 2 We're meeting Tom at 3.30. ____
- 3 She'll be famous one day. ____
- 4 I'm going to learn new skills. ____
- 5 We won't break your camera! ____
- a definite arrangement
b promise
c plan
d intention
e timetabled event
f prediction

2 ★★ Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

Hi Ruby!

I'm excited about our trip to the festival tomorrow!

I am going to arrive (arrive) at the station at 9.45.

I promise I ¹ _____ (not be) late – you know I'm usually reliable!

Our train ² _____ (leave) from Platform 4 at 10.00. I think we ³ _____ (have) enough time to walk to the platform.

What are your plans for lunch? ⁴ _____ (you / bring) any sandwiches for the journey?

I need to go now – I ⁵ _____ (play) tennis with Rashid in half an hour. See you tomorrow!

Alex



Present perfect

3 ★ Look at the pictures and complete the sentences with the phrases below.

hasn't finished the race yet haven't finished the exam yet
's just finished the race ~~'s worked here for a long time~~
's worked here since last week 've already done the exam



He 's worked here for a long time.

- 1 He _____.
- 2 She _____.
- 3 She _____.
- 4 They _____.
- 5 They _____.

4 ★ Choose the correct answers.

Ben is sociable. He's ... made friends at the club.

a for b since c already

1 'Have you thought about your future job ... ?'
'Yes, I want to become a mechanic like my mum.'

a just b yet c for

2 They have lived in that house ... 50 years.

a yet b since c for

3 'Are you hungry?' 'No. I've ... finished lunch.'

a just b since c yet

4 I haven't known Ed ... long. We met last week.

a already b for c since

5 ★★ Correct the error in each sentence.

Eva has been at this school ~~since~~ three years.
for

1 Pablo has worked in that shop for January.

2 Oh no. I've just seen this film. I saw it last year.

3 Have you liked this band since a long time?