

GRAMMAR 8B: EXPRESSING FUTURE PLANS AND ARRANGEMENTS

1. PRESENT CONTINUOUS

It's the most common way to talk about **arrangements**. It refers to **fixed plans** for the future in which **time** and **place** are **decided**.

Ex: I'm playing tennis with Pete tomorrow afternoon at 5.

2. BE GOING TO

It's the most common way to express **future plans and intentions**, implying that a **decision** has been **made**.

Ex: She's going to study medicine.

What's the difference between Present Continuous and Be going to when referring to future plans and arrangements?

In most cases both can be used without much difference in meaning but

- **Present continuous** emphasizes a time and a place to do something which has been decided.

- **Be going to** emphasizes the intention.

DO NOT USE Present Continuous when it is clear that something is an intention.

Ex: I'm meeting Paul tomorrow morning.

We are going to plan our summer holidays.

3. PRESENT SIMPLE

It refers to **future events** which are **part of a timetable or a regular schedule**.

Ex: The play starts at 5.30.

4. WILL BE -ING

1. It describes an **event** which will be **happening at a future point**.

Ex: Come round in the morning, I'll be painting the kitchen.

2. It can also describe **events which are going to happen anyway**, rather than events which we choose to make happen.

Ex: I won't bother to fix a time to see you, because I'll be calling into the office anyway several times next week.

3. In some contexts to sound **more polite** than will.

Ex: Will you be going to the shops later? If you go, could you get me some potatoes?

4. It can also be used to refer to **fixed arrangements and plans**.

Ex: The band will be performing live in Paris this summer.

5. OTHER WAYS OF EXPRESSING FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS

1. BE DUE TO + INFINITIVE

It refers to something which is **arranged or expected** at a certain time. (scheduled times)

*ex: The play is **due to** start in ten minutes.*

*Also **it's due=it's expected** : Ann's flight is **due** at 6.20*

2. BE ABOUT TO + INFINITIVE / BE ON THE POINT OF + GERUND

Both expressions mean that **something is going to happen very soon**.

*Ex: I think the play is **about to** start very soon.*

*Mary is **on the point of** resigning.*

3. BE TO + INFINITIVE

This is used to describe **formal arrangements**.

*Ex: All the students **are to** assemble in the hall at 9.00.*