



## Talking about the future

The tense of a verb tells us **when** the action was done. The action can be done in the past, present or future.

There are **three main ways of talking about the future**. For example:

*I think I **will work** late tomorrow = future tense*  
*I **am working** late tomorrow = present continuous tense*  
*I **am going to work** late tomorrow = 'going to' + verb*

### The future tense

**The future tense** is made by '**will**' or '**shall**' + the verb, as in the example above: '*I think I **will work** late tomorrow.*' (Note that 'will' and 'shall' are often shortened.) This tense is used to talk about a prediction or unplanned/uncertain events. For example:

*Autumn **will** soon be here.*  
*It'll break if you drop it.*  
*What **will** you do? I don't know what I'll do*

### The present-continuous tense

The present continuous is used when plans are discussed. It's useful to talk about definite arrangements in the near future, as in the example above '*I **am working** late tomorrow.*' For example:

*What time **are you leaving** tomorrow? I'm leaving at 8 o'clock.*  
*I'm going out tomorrow.*  
*I'm getting a new car next week.*

### The use of 'going to'

'Going to' + the verb is used to talk a decision. For example:

*What **are you going to do** this evening?*  
*I'm going to watch a film on TV.*  
*He's going to play football.*

*This form can also be used to predict something that there is already evidence of: For example:*

*I think **it's going to** rain.*