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Grammar Reference

1. Grammar Reference - Talking about the Future

When we know about **the future**, we normally use the present tense.

1. We use the **present simple** for something **scheduled**:

Examples:

1. We **have** a lesson next Monday.
2. The train **arrives** at 6.30 in the morning.
3. The holidays **start** next week.
4. It's my birthday tomorrow.

2. We can use the **present continuous** for **plans or arrangements**:

Examples:

1. I'm **playing** football tomorrow.
2. They **are coming** to see us tomorrow.
3. We're **having** a party at Christmas.

3. We use **will**:

- when we express beliefs about the future:

Examples:

1. It **will be** a nice day tomorrow.
2. I think Brazil **will win** the World Cup.
3. I'm sure you **will enjoy** the film.

4. We use **be going to**:

- to talk about **plans** or **intentions**:

Examples:

1. I'm **going to drive** to work today.
2. They **are going to move** to Manchester.

- to make **predictions based on evidence** we can see:

Examples:

1. Be careful! You **are going to fall**. (= I can see that you might fall.)
2. Look at those black clouds. I think it's **going to rain**. (= I can see that it will rain.)

2. Grammar Reference – Future Possibility

We use **will / won't + adverb** to say how likely something is in the future. **Will** comes before the adverb. **Won't** comes after the adverb in negative sentences.

Examples: They **will definitely go** to your birthday party. (They are certain)

He **certainly won't accept** your apology. (He is certain)

I **will probably have** an annual trip with my family in Bali. (very certain)

We **won't probably take** a final next week. (very certain)

We use **may / might / could** when we are not certain. Do not use **could not** in a negative sentence.

Examples: His girlfriend **may arrive** late for lunch.

The temperature is rising. It **may not snow** tonight after all. **Not:** ~~The temperature is rising. It could not snow tonight after all.~~

Note: With modal verbs (*will, may, might, could*) use in the base form of the verb.