

§ 35. In negative sentences the Past Perfect Continuous is not common; the Past Perfect (Non-Continuous) is preferred in them when the negation refers to the action itself but not to its circumstances (see also "Verbs", § 19).

e.g. I knew they had not corresponded for years.

§ 36. It is noteworthy that Past Perfect Continuous I and particularly Past Perfect Continuous II may sometimes be found with stative verbs.

e.g. Beside the porch he stopped to examine the web of a spider which he had been noticing for a week or more.

Certainly the medicine had steadied her; the sinking feeling she had been having was all gone.

Over tea she tried to find out whether I had been seeing Sheila.

§ 37. Note some sentence patterns in which the Present Perfect Continuous or the Past Perfect Continuous is found:

1) In a complex sentence with a subordinate clause of time introduced by *since*, whose action indicates the starting point of the action in the principal clause. Hence, the Past Indefinite is used in the subordinate-clause. As to the principal clause, the Present Perfect Continuous (or Present Perfect II) is used in it in present-time contexts (a) and the Past Perfect Continuous (or Past Perfect II) in past-time contexts (b).

e.g. a) "They are bombs. You could blow the roof of the whole of this building with what I've got here," said the lunatic. "I've been carting them from room to room *since* the war began." I've known him *since* we were kids.

b) Michael rose and clutched his hat. Wilfred had said exactly what he himself had really been thinking ever *since* he came.

Mr Bentley was a publisher because ever *since* he was a boy he had had a liking for books.

2) In a complex sentence with a subordinate clause of time introduced by the conjunctions *while* and *since* or by some connective words and expressions such as *as long as*, *during the week*, *in*

*the short time (that)*, *all the time (that)*, etc. The actions in both clauses may be parallel, starting at the same time in the past and continuing either into or up to the moment of speaking in present-time contexts (a) or into or up to a given past moment in past-time contexts (b). Accordingly, the Present Perfect Continuous (or Present Perfect II) is used in both clauses in the former case and the Past Perfect Continuous (or Past Perfect II) in the latter case.

e.g. a) Our friendship has been growing *all the time* we've been working on the project.

I've been rather shut *since* we've been here, with all this bad weather.

b) We had been sitting on our beds *while* George had been telling me this true story.

**The suit had been neither pressed nor brushed *since* he had had it.**

3) In a complex sentence with a subordinate clause of time introduced by the conjunction *when*. The action of the subordinate clause may serve to indicate a given past moment into or up to which the action of the principal clause, that had begun before that moment, continued. The duration of the action is indicated by some adverbial modifier of time. Accordingly, the Past Indefinite is found in the *when*-clause and the Past Perfect Continuous (or Past Perfect II) in the principal clause. It should be noted that this is a very commonly occurring pattern.

e.g. He had been sitting by the fire for nearly an hour *when* his mother came into the room with a letter in her hands. They had been walking for less than an hour *when* the moon suddenly appeared between the heavy clouds.

### The Future Indefinite

§ 38. The Future Indefinite is an analytical form which is built up by means of the auxiliary verbs *shall* (for the first person, singular and plural) and *will* (for the second and third persons, singular and plural) and the infinitive of the notional verb without the particle *to* (e.g. *I shall see him tomorrow. He will see them tomorrow. You will see them tomorrow*, etc.).

It should be mentioned that in present-day English there is a tendency to use *will* for all the persons. Besides, the difference in the use of *shall* and *will* disappears altogether in spoken English where the contracted form 'U is used with all the persons (e.g. *I'll see him tomorrow. She'll see him tomorrow. They'll see him tomorrow*, etc.).

The auxiliary verbs *shall* and *will* are used to build up the interrogative and the negative forms, too (e.g. *Shall we see you tomorrow? Will they see him tomorrow? I shall not see you tomorrow. You will not see me tomorrow*, etc.).

In spoken English the contracted forms *shan't* and *won't* are commonly used in negative sentences.

§ 39. The Future Indefinite is found only in present-time contexts. It is by far the most common of all the finite forms referring an action to the future. Although it is widely used in English, it is somewhat restricted in its application owing to a number of reasons which will be dealt with below.

The Future Indefinite may be used to express:

1) a single point action that will be completed in the future,

e.g. It will ruin her.

I know I'm right, and one of these days you'll realize it.

2) an action occupying a whole period of time in the future,

e.g. I think I shall remain in love with you all my life. I hope you'll live for many years.

3) a succession of actions in the future,

e.g. I shall wait in the next room and come back when she's gone.  
We'll just talk about the weather and the crops for a few minutes and then we'll have dinner.

4) some recurrent actions in the future,

e.g. I shall come along as often as possible.  
I hope we shall see something of you while you are in London.

5) some permanent future actions generally characterizing the person denoted by the subject of the sentence,

e.g. I'm afraid he'll be a bit lonely, poor darling.  
The old age pension will keep me in bread, tea and onions, and what more does an old man want?

## The Future Continuous

§ 40. The Future Continuous is an analytical form which is built up by means of the auxiliary verb to be in the Future Indefinite and the ing-form of the notional verb (e.g. *I shall be seeing him often now. He will be seeing them often now*, etc.). (On the formation of the Future Indefinite see "Verbs", § 38; on the formation of the in<sup>^</sup>-form see "Verbs", § 11.)

I» the interrogative form the first auxiliary verb is placed before the subject (e.g. *Shall I be seeing him often now? Will he be seeing them often now?*, etc.). In the negative form the negative particle not is placed after the first auxiliary (e.g. *I shall not be seeing him often now. He will not be seeing them often now*, etc.).

In spoken English the contracted form 'll is used with all the persons in affirmative sentences and *shan't* and *won't* in negative sentences.

§ 41. The Future Continuous is used in the following cases:

1) To express an action in progress at a definite future moment.

The precise time limits of the action are not specified and the future moment at which the action takes place is usually indicated by an adverbial modifier or is clear from the context or situation.

e.g. We'll just be beginning the experiments then, and my contract here ends this summer.

Now I feel absolutely dopy. God knows what I shall be saving in a minute.

However, in present-day English this original meaning of the Future Continuous is not so common since it is seldom required by the situation.

2) To express an action which the speaker expects to take place in the future in the natural course of events. It may be used with or without time indications and generally refers to the near future though it is also possible to use it for a more distant future.

e.g. I feel I shall be asking you the same question tomorrow.

Maurice is tired. He will be coming to bed directly.

"You haven't been out for a week," his mother said. "Five days," Vincent put down his paper. "You'll be taking root in that armchair. Your face is growing paler every day."

He yawned. "Another five minutes and **I'll be explaining** the law of gravity to another set of my pupils. I'll **be making** the same old jokes and they'll **be laughing** at them in the same old way."

**Bob will not be coming.** He's been taken ill.

This use should be regarded as the main application of the Future Continuous in modern English.

§ 42. Note the following examples in which the Future Continuous is used with stative verbs.

e.g. "What's your brother like? I **shall be knowing** him at Oxford," said Val.

Harris said, "We **shall be wanting** to start in less than twelve hours' time."

"What sort of house has Laura?" "I didn't notice. I **shan't be seeing** her again in any case."

### The Future Perfect

§ 43. The Future Perfect is an analytical form which is built up by means of the auxiliary verb **to have** in the Future Indefinite and the participle of the notional verb (e.g. / *shall have read the book by that time, He will have read the book by that time, etc.*). (On the formation of the Future Indefinite see "Verbs", § 38; on the formation of the participle see "Verbs", § 5.)

In the interrogative form the first auxiliary verb is placed before the subject (e.g. *Will she have read the book by that time? Will you have read the book by that time?*, etc.). In the negative form the negative particle *not* is placed after the first auxiliary (e.g. *We shall not have read the book by that time. They will not have read the book by that time, etc.*).

In spoken English the contracted form 'll is used with all the persons in affirmative sentences and **shan't** and **won't** in negative sentences.

§ 44. The Future Perfect is used to express an action accomplished before a given future moment which is usually indicated by an adverbial modifier.

e.g. I daresay you'll **have gone** to bed by the time I've finished. I suppose we **shall have made** up our minds whom we are going to elect before the meeting.

The Future Perfect is not used very often owing to the fact that it is seldom required by the situation.

### Different Means of Expressing Future Actions Compared

§ 45. All future actions are by nature hypothetical. Owing to that, ways of expressing future actions — in addition to the meaning of futurity — are often associated with various other modal meanings, such as intention, willingness, readiness, obligation, assurance, expectation and the like. That explains why English is rich in means of referring an action to the future.

§ 46. The following is a description of different means of expressing future actions in present-day English:<sup>1</sup>

1) **The Present Continuous** is used to express a future action as definitely settled due to one's previous decision. The action is going to take place in the near future and the time is, as a rule, indicated in the sentence by means of such adverbial modifiers as *to-night, next week, in a few days, etc.*

e.g. **She is coming** to lunch on Thursday.

You know, **I'm going** away tonight.

**Are you staying** long?

Teddie **is leaving** here by the first train tomorrow.

Patrick, **are we doing** anything at the weekend?

This use of the Present Continuous is also possible without any time indications and then the action refers to the immediate future.

e.g. It's Fred. He's **going** to Italy and wants to say good-bye. I'm just **going** upstairs to change and pack. I'm sorry you **are leaving** England. And now I must go as we **are dining out**.

<sup>1</sup> Some of these forms can be regarded as purely grammatical ways of expressing future actions; others are on the border-line between lexical and grammatical means.

*Note.* Note that in questions beginning with *when* the Present Continuous always refers the action to the future.

e.g. When is he coming?  
When are you going back?

When the Present Continuous is used to refer an action to the future, the action is regarded as fixed and the speaker is certain that it will take place.

With stative verbs the Future Indefinite should be applied to refer an action to the future.

2) The Future Continuous is also one of the means of expressing future actions. It is described in detail in "Verbs", § 41.

The difference between the Present Continuous used to denote a future action and the Future Continuous becomes quite evident if we compare the following sentences:

e.g. We are meeting tomorrow (= *we have arranged to meet tomorrow, we have fixed the date of our meeting*). We shall be meeting tomorrow (= *not because of some arrangement but in the normal course of events; either because we work together, or because we attend classes together, or regularly play some game at the same place and at the same time, etc.*).

3) *To be* + infinitive (with *to*), like the Present Continuous, serves to indicate a previous arrangement, but in addition to that meaning it generally implies obligation resulting from that arrangement. Besides, it differs from the Present Continuous in that it does not necessarily refer the action to the near future. The verb *to be* in this combination is regarded as a modal verb.

Since a previous arrangement is the basic meaning of this combination and the action always refers to the future, no special indication of time is needed in the sentence, though the time may be mentioned if necessary.

e.g. I've had a letter from home. I'm to go back at once.  
This autumn he is entering the Military College. He is to make the Army his career.

The meaning of obligation may become so strong that "*to be* + infinitive" sometimes expresses orders or instructions which are to be carried out in the future.

e.g. Milly, you are not to talk like that in front of the child.

4) *To be going to* + infinitive is an important means of referring an action to the future which is frequently used in modern English. It is convenient to refer to it as the "*going-to* form".

The "*going-to* form" may have the following meanings:

a) It serves to express premeditated intention which means that the person denoted by the subject has been planning for some time to perform the action, has been thinking of it, that some preparation for the action has been in progress. Indications of time are optional in this case.

e.g. I'm not going to live at home.  
I'm going to say something dreadful to you, Dorothy.  
I'm going to tell him what I think of him.  
He's not going to make any concessions.  
Are you going to play tennis?  
What are you going to do about it?  
She's going to explain that tomorrow.  
Oh, I'm not going to marry for years yet.

*Note.* The verb *to go* is actually not the Present Continuous here. It is the Present Continuous only in form; its use has become idiomatic in this combination.

Although this means of referring an action to the future is frequently found in English, its application is somewhat restricted — it is mainly found with dynamic verbs. An important exception to the rule, however, is the verb *to be* which often occurs in this construction.

e.g. He's going to be a solicitor.  
Of course, the trip's going to be wonderful.

The verbs *to go* and *to come* are rarely found with the "*going-to* form". Thus, *He is going to go* or *He is going to come* are uncommon in English. These verbs are generally used in the Present Continuous instead.

e.g. Oh, are you going to Italy? Are you coming, Mother?

b) It may also be used to show the speaker's feeling that the action is imminent, that it is unavoidable in the near future. No indication of time is generally needed in this case.

e.g. I don't know what **is going to happen**.

"The next few years," said George, "are going **to be** a wonderful time to be alive." Oh, what is **going to become** of us? I'm afraid I'm **going to cry**.

5) **The Present Indefinite** is also an important means of expressing future actions. It is used in four different cases which have been described in "Verbs", § 10, 4.

6) **The Future Indefinite**. After all the other means of expressing future actions have been described, it is now necessary to see what remains for the Future Indefinite proper to express.

In the first place it should be pointed out that the Future Indefinite is used differently with dynamic and stative verbs.

With stative verbs the Future Indefinite is used to express any action referring to the future, without any restrictions.

e.g. His suggestion **will interest** you enormously. You'll **think** his ideas absurd. She'll **know** the truth soon. Don't bother, I **shall manage** all right by myself. Dad **will never consent** to our marriage. It'll be rather fun coming up to town to eat my dinners. I'll be back presently.

**We shall have** some news for you to take to your people. It **will not make** much difference to me.

The other means of expressing future actions are not common with stative verbs — some of them seem to be impossible with these verbs (e.g. the Present Continuous, the Future Continuous, partly the Present Indefinite) while others are uncommon (e.g. the "going-to form").

Although the number of stative verbs is limited, they are in frequent use, which makes the role of the Future Indefinite very important in English.

With dynamic verbs the Future Indefinite is used freely only under certain conditions:

a) In the principal clause of a complex sentence with a clause of time, condition and concession.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> In the subordinate clauses we find the Present Indefinite or the Present Perfect (see "Verbs", § 10, 4 and § 16, 3).

e.g. "We **shall catch** the train *if* we start now," she insisted. You're the prettiest woman I've ever known and I **shall say** the same *when* you're a hundred. As soon as we have had tea, Fred, we **shall go** to inspect your house. We'll **talk** about it *whenever* he comes.

Other means of expressing future actions are uncommon in this case. \* b) In passive constructions.

e.g. He'll **be voted** down.  
My chief **will be informed** of your request.  
She **will be paid** in cash.

c) To express a succession of actions in the future. No other means seems to be suitable here.

e.g. **I shall prepare** you a nice little dinner and then **we'll leave you**.  
**I'll take** a walk to the sea and on my way back **I'll buy** you a newspaper.

d) When the time of the realization of the action is indefinite or when its realization is remote.

e.g. We **shall meet** again one day. Life **will teach** her a lesson. He'll never **sell** his little cottage.

Such sentences often contain adverbial modifiers of indefinite time, e.g. *always, forever, in future, never, some day* and the like.

e) To denote actions whose realization is uncertain, doubtful or merely supposed, as their fulfilment depends on some implied condition.

e.g. You mustn't cry. Please, don't, or I **shall go** to pieces. Protest as you like, Mr Pyke, it **won't alter** my decision.

In this case we sometimes find such attitudinal adverbs in the sentence as *perhaps, probably, of course* and the like.

e.g. They'll *probably* get a lot of satisfaction out of our quarrel. *Of course* he **will send** you a letter in a few days.

f) In object clauses after verbs (and their equivalents) expressing personal views or opinions, such as *to be afraid, to believe, to be sure, to doubt, to expect, to have no doubt, to hope, to imagine, to know, to suppose, to suspect, to think, to wonder* and the like. Sometimes these verbs are used in parenthesis.

e.g. He *thinks* a scandal **will ruin** his reputation. *I don't know* what I **shall do** without you. I'm *afraid* he **won't talk** to you. *I've no doubt* you'll **explain** it perfectly. His new novel is (I'm **quite sure of it**) another masterpiece.

On the whole it should be noted that although other means of expressing futurity can also be used under the conditions described above (a, b, c, d, e, f), they are applied when their meaning is specially required.

§ 47. If dynamic verbs are used in the Future Indefinite under conditions other than those described above, the sentences become modally coloured. This occurs owing to the fact that the auxiliaries *shall* and *will* preserve their modal meanings.

Thus *shall* preserves its original meaning of obligation, if somewhat modified, with the 2nd and 3rd persons in sentences expressing promise, threat or warning.

e.g. I promise you, Arthur, that Harold **shan't do** anything about it. He **shall have** a scandal. He **shall have** the worst scandal there has been in London for years.

*Shall* also preserves its modal meaning when it is used in asking after the will of the person addressed.

e.g. **Shall I bring** you some coffee?  
Oh, Alfred, what **shall we do**?

*Will* (in print *will* or *41*) is often used in affirmative sentences with the first person, singular and plural, to express such meanings as wish, willingness, readiness, intention, determination to perform an action.

e.g. **I'll do** what I can.  
**I'll go** wherever you take me.

*Will* in sentences of this kind also shows that the speaker offers to perform an action.

e.g. **I'll go** and get a drink for you.  
**I'll wire** to have the room ready for them.  
**I'll come** with you, Barbara.

In affirmative sentences *will* with the 2nd and 3rd persons may occasionally express a command.

e.g. **You will come** here tomorrow not later than ten, Mr Lickcheese.  
Bernard **will pay** the taxi.

In negative sentences *will* expresses refusal to perform an action.

e.g. **I won't argue** with you. He **won't be** ordered about.

In general questions, direct and indirect, as well as in disjunctive questions, *will* also preserves its modal meaning and the interrogative sentence is actually to be understood as a request or an invitation.

e.g. **Will you ask** him to ring me back?  
**You'll wait** for us, **won't you**? Oh, ask him if he **won't come** in.

The same is true of complex sentences with an if-clause in which *will* is used to express willingness or consent.

e.g. Oh, but we shall be delighted if you'll **lunch** with us.  
*Will* may express supposition.

e.g. As she entered the room, the telephone rang. "That'll **be** your mother," Jenny said to her husband.

For a detailed treatment of the modal verbs *shall* and *will* see "Verbs", §§ 105, 113-116.

§ 48. By way of exception to the above rules, dynamic verbs may occasionally be found in the Future Indefinite to express mere futurity without any additional modal meanings. This use of

the Future Indefinite may be understood as an expression of neutrality or impartiality on the part of the speaker. (Usually one of the other means of expressing futurity is used in such cases.)

e.g. **I shall dine** in my own room.

**I shall leave** you with your father for half an hour. In this chapter we **shall present** a brief account of new methods that we have used. Be quiet. Somebody **will answer** the bell.

This use of the Future Indefinite is found in formal announcements of future plans in newspapers and news broadcasts.

e.g. This is the weather forecast for the afternoon. A belt of depression **will spread** further north, showers **will fall** in southern districts.

§ 49. It stands to reason that sometimes the difference between the various means of referring an action to the future may become unimportant, as the distinction is often very subtle. Thus, there are cases when two different forms may be used interchangeably without any noticeable difference in meaning.

Cf. We **are going** to the pictures tonight.

We **are to go** to the pictures tonight.

He **is taking** his exam next week. He

**will be taking** his exam next week. **I'm**

**meeting** Tom at the station. **I'm going**

**to meet** Tom at the station.

§ 50. Note the use of the Future Indefinite in the following stereotyped sentences:

e.g. **I'll ask** you to excuse me.

You'll **excuse** me, Gardner.

Well, **we'll see. It'll do you good.**

**It won't do** them harm to cool their heads a bit.

You've got a mind like a steel trap. **You'll go** far.

No good **will come** of it.

### Means of Expressing Future Actions Viewed from the Past

§ 51. English has some special forms to express future actions if they are viewed from some moment in the past. The most common of these means is **the Future-in-the-Past**, which, like the Future, has the following forms: **the Future Indefinite-in-the-Past, the Future Continuous-in-the-Past, and the Future Perfect-in-the-Past.**

1) **The Future Indefinite-in-the-Past** is an analytical form which is built up by means of the auxiliary verbs **should** (for the first person, singular and plural) and **would** (for the second and third persons, singular and plural) and the infinitive of the notional verb without the particle to (e.g. *I said I should do it. I said he would do it, etc.*). In present-day English there is a tendency to use *would* for all the persons. Besides, the difference in the use of *should* and *would* disappears altogether in spoken English where the contracted form 'd is used with all the persons (e.g. *I said I'd do it. I said he'd do it, etc.*). In negative sentences the particle not is placed after the auxiliaries *should* and *would* with which it often forms the contractions **shouldn't and wouldn't** (e.g. *I said I should not (shouldn't) do it. I said he would not (wouldn't) do it, etc.*).

The use of the Future Indefinite-in-the-Past is structurally dependent: mainly found in object clauses after one of the past finite forms in the principal clause.'

e.g. At twenty I did not know whether any woman **would love me** with her whole heart.

I felt that further conversation with Dave **would be** unprofitable at that moment.

He was sure I **should get** the job.

The Future Indefinite-in-the-Past expresses the time of the action relatively (see "Verbs", § 54), i.e. with regard to a given past moment the action of the subordinate clause follows that of the principal clause.

2) **The Future Continuous-in-the-Past** is an analytical form which is built up by means of the auxiliary verb **to be** in the Future Indefinite-in-the-Past and the ing-form of the notional verb

<sup>1</sup> It can be used in all types of clauses in which the rules of the sequence of tenses are observed.