

GRAMMAR

Using *will* to make predictions

LEVEL

Intermediate (B1)

NUMBER

EN_B1_1042G

LANGUAGE

English



Learning outcomes

- I can recognise and use contractions with 'will'.
- I can use the future with 'will' to make predictions about world events.





Warm-up

What does the verb *to predict* mean?



Is it easy to predict the future or not?



What will happen?

Tom and Maria are neighbours and friends. Read a part of their conversation and answer the questions below.

Tom: Have you been keeping up with the election coverage? Do you think we will have another surprise on polling day?

Maria: Well, my money is on this new guy, Donoghue. We need to see some big changes and he's the right man for the job, in my opinion.

Tom: I'm not so sure about that. I bet McBride will win it again this year. She's been running a very strong campaign! But I expect it'll be a close race.

Maria: I think it'll be pretty close too. People are fed up with her housing policies.



1. What are Tom and Maria talking about?
2. What does Tom think will happen?
3. What does Maria think will happen?



People are **fed up with** her housing policies.

My money is on this new guy.

What do you think these phrases from Tom and Maria's conversation mean?





Making predictions with *will*

Read these sentences from the text on slide 4 and answer the questions in the blue box.



Tom

I bet McBride will win it again this year. But I expect it'll be a close race.



Maria

I think it'll be pretty close too. People are fed up with her housing policies.

- Identify the verb **will** in these sentences.
- Identify the **contractions** of **will**.
- Which **other verbs** do the speakers use to show that their **predictions** are based on opinion?
- Why do you think we use **contractions**?

Using the future simple to make predictions

Tom and Maria continue predicting the outcome of the election. Read their sentences and complete the blue box below.



I believe **she will win it** and make positive changes!



I bet **he'll get** more votes. He deserves it!
I guess **she'll be** very disappointed.

- Use _____ + bare **infinitive** for predictions based on **opinions** and personal **experience**.
- In **everyday conversation** you **usually** use the contraction: e.g. **he** _____.
- In more **formal** and/or **written contexts**, and **to emphasise a point**, we don't use the contraction. We use the full form: e.g. **she** _____.





Practise pronouncing the contraction 'll

Practise the 'll sound (dark L). The tip of your tongue should touch the roof of your mouth, just behind the front teeth.

1

I'll be

/aɪl/

2

you'll be

/ju:l/

3

she'll be

/ʃi:l/

4

it'll be

/ɪtl/

5

they'll be

/ðeɪl/

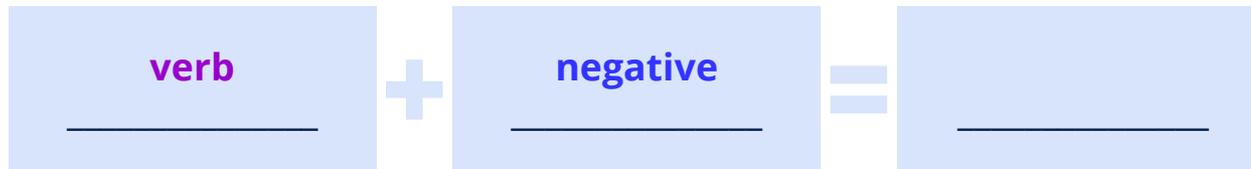


Forming contractions: negative

She **will not** win. People are fed up with her housing policies!

I suppose people **won't** vote for him!

Forming contractions with will (negative)



Complete the sentences

Choose the right word(s) to complete the sentences.

1 He _____ win! People are fed up with his policies.

a. will

b. won't

2 I believe she _____ get more votes and win the election!

a. will

b. won't

3 I suppose it _____ be a close race. It's impossible to predict who _____ win!

a. will/will

b. won't/will



Complete the sentences

Choose the right word(s) to complete the sentences.

1 She's been running a very strong campaign. She _____ be very disappointed if she loses.

a. will

b. won't

2 I expect it _____ be easy to predict who _____ win! It's too close to call!

a. will/will

b. won't/will

3 I guess we _____ just have to wait and see what happens!

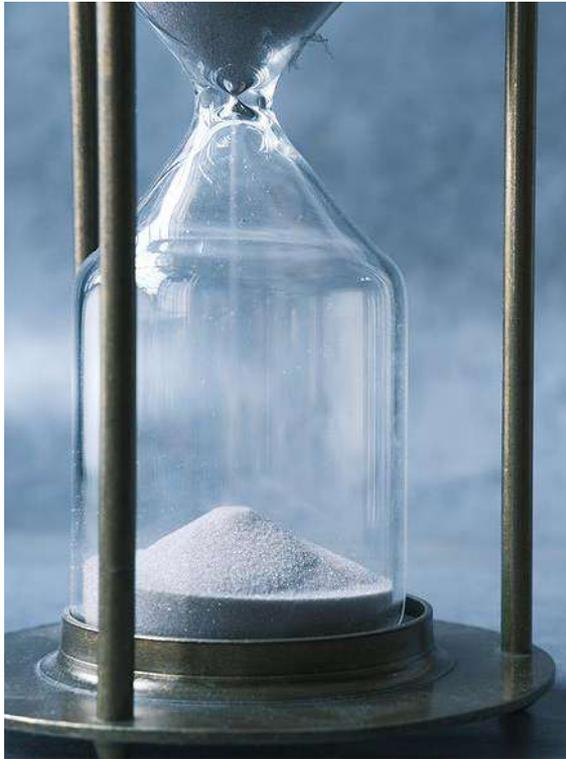
a. will

b. won't



In the next 5 years...

1. **Think about** what will and won't happen in the next 5 years of your life.
2. **Share** your predictions. Your teacher may use **breakout rooms** for this part of the activity.
3. **Discuss:** Are there any similarities between you and your classmates?



believe

guess

won't

will

English

friends

home

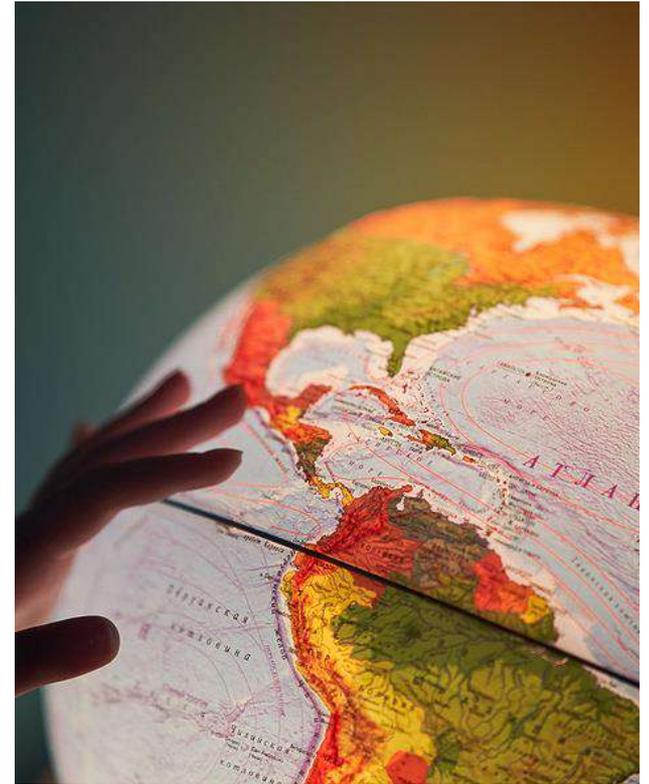
work

family

Who do you think will win?

**When are the
next elections in
your country?**

**Who do you think will win?
Why?**

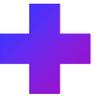


End of the lesson

Idiom

Time will tell

Meaning: We're uncertain about something right now, but it will become clearer in the future.



Additional practice



Additional pronunciation practice



1

You'll find that native speakers use contractions all the time. **You'll** be amazed by the difference it makes. **You'll** vastly improve your listening and speaking skills.



2

It'll be difficult at first to remember to use contractions while **you're** in the middle of an actual conversation.



3

But if you make a conscious effort to work on them, **they'll** soon become second nature.



4

There'll be situations when **you won't** use contractions, for example to emphasise a point, and in formal and written language.



Formal or informal?

Sort into the categories. Sort the sentences on the left into the categories on the right depending on whether they are formal or informal language.

- 1 What'll I do? I've missed the 1.15 train. I won't get there in time to see you off!
- 2 The president will be delighted to hear this. We will inform her immediately.
- 3 I doubt I will be able to attend. You will have to make alternative arrangements.
- 4 I'll be surprised if they keep their word. They're not reliable, in my experience.
- 5 Don't say that! You will get your place on the university course, I can feel it!

everyday, informal

formal, written



Overview: contractions with will

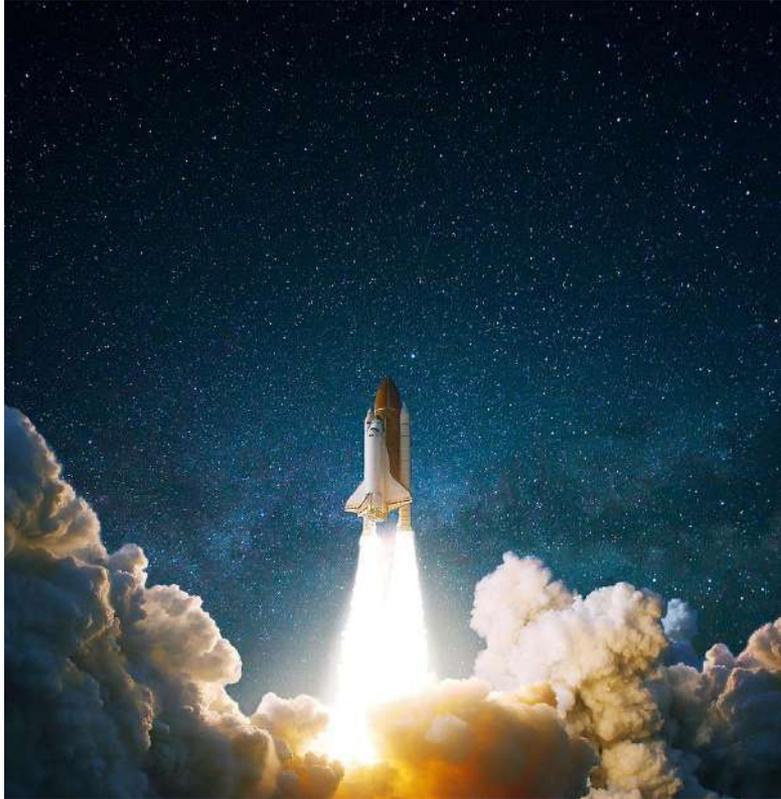
Complete the table by filling in the positive and negative contractions of will.

Positive contractions		Negative contractions	
I will	_____	I will not	_____
you will	_____	you will not	_____
she, he, it will	_____	she, he, it will not	_____
we will	_____	we will not	_____
they will	_____	they will not	_____



Predict the future!

Discuss. What will the world look like in thirty years from now, in your opinion? Will any of these predictions come true, do you think?



I think there will be guided tours of Mars.

I think we'll live in climate-controlled bunkers underground.

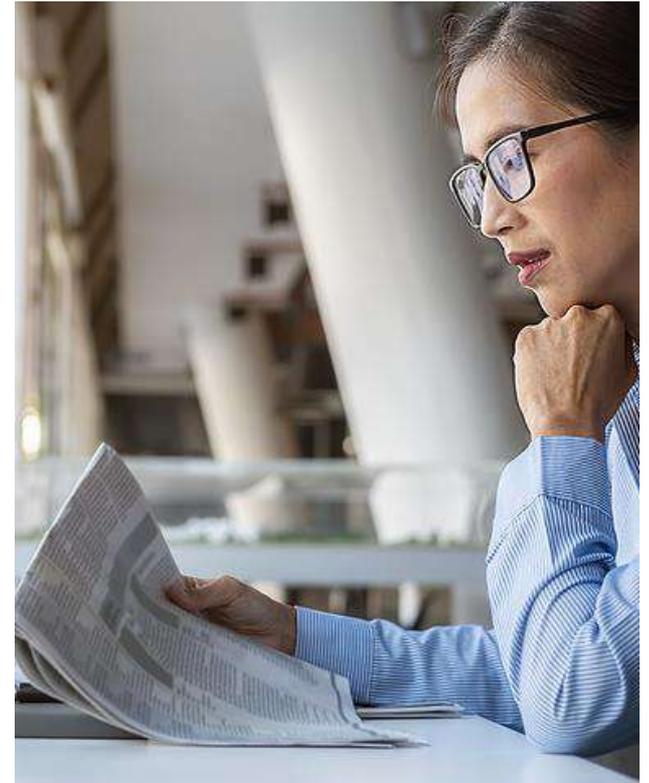
I think everyone will drive electric cars.



What do you think will change?

**Think about the
country, city, or
town you live in.**

**What do you think will change
in the next 3 years? Why?**





Match with the meaning

Match the words in **bold** with the phrases on the right that have the same meaning.

1 **She doesn't believe the environment will recover** fully.

2 **I suppose people won't want** to buy from that brand anymore.

3 **He thinks his insurance company won't cover** the accident.

4 **Critics don't think the film will do well** at the box office

5 **I don't expect he'll stay** in his current position

a They think it won't do well...

b I expect he won't stay...

c She believes it won't recover...

d He doesn't think they will cover...

e I don't suppose they will want...



Using future simple with other verbs

Transform the sentences with the future simple in the negative.

1 I don't expect he'll go to the office.

> **I expect he won't go to the office.**

2 She doesn't believe this government will change.

>

3 Many reviewers think the new book won't do very well.

>

4 I don't suppose people will want to travel there after the hurricane.

>

5 They expect this won't change any time soon.

>





Current affairs: new words and phrases

1 Have you been _____ the election coverage?

- a. keeping b. keeping down with c. keeping up with d. listening

2 Ha! I don't think they have a chance of reaching the final. My _____ Brazil to win.

- a. money is off b. money on c. money is on d. guess

3 It's important for politicians to _____ and accept responsibility for their actions.

- a. step off b. step down c. step up d. step

4 I hope he'll be _____ tonight. Last time I saw his comedy show he wasn't funny at all.

- a. formed b. on form c. unformed d. off form



I disagree!

Imagine this scenario: there are plans to knock down an important historical building in your city. The developers want to build luxury apartments on the site instead. **Predict** the consequences of this project. What **positive** and **negative effects** will this project have?



You think it's a good idea. What do you predict will happen?



I disagree!

Imagine this scenario: there are plans to knock down an important historical building in your city. The developers want to build a luxury apartment complex here instead. **Predict** the consequences of this project. What **positive** and **negative effects** will this project have?

1



You think it's a good idea. What do you predict will happen?

2



You disagree. What do you predict will happen?



I disagree!

Imagine this scenario: there are plans to knock down an important historical building in your city. The developers want to build a luxury apartment complex here instead. **Predict** the consequences of this project. What **positive** and **negative effects** will this project have?

1



You think it's a good idea. What do you predict will happen?

2



You disagree. What do you predict will happen?

3



Who feels most strongly about this?
Can you come to an agreement?



Discuss

Your company is considering a switch to a four-day week for all employees.

1. **Make predictions** about the effect it will have on the company **in pairs in breakout rooms**.
2. **Compare** your predictions as a group. Is it a good idea or not? **Decide** as a group.



suppose

workload

organisation

productivity

salary

studies
show

long-term
effect

work/life
balance

expect



Answer key

P.4: 1. They are talking about the upcoming election 2. Tom thinks McBride will win 3. Maria thinks Donoghue will win.

P. 6: bet, expect and think; contractions are used in more casual conversations

P.7: will; 'll; will

P.9: will + not = won't

P.10: 1. (b), 2. (a), 3. (a)

P.11: 1. (a), 2. (b), 3. (a)

P. 19: 1, 4, 5 are informal; 2, 3 are formal

P.22: 1. (c) 2. (e) 3. (d) 4. (a) 5. (b)

P. 23:

1. I expect he won't 2. She believes the government won't 3. Many reviewers don't think the new book will 4. I suppose people won't 5. They don't expect this'll change

P. 24: 1. (c) 2. (c) 3. (c) 4. (b)



Vocabulary list

surprise

news coverage

to keep up with

to be fed up with

to expect

My money's on

right (person) for the job

to run a campaign

to bet

to guess

to suppose

to believe



Summary

Future simple

- Use **will + infinitive** for predictions based on opinion and personal experience.

Contraction

- In **everyday conversation** we usually use the contraction: e.g. **she'll** win

No contraction

- In more **formal** and/or written contexts, and to emphasise a point, we don't use the contraction. We use the full form: e.g. **he will** win

