

## Time clauses

- 1 We can use time conjunctions to talk about two actions that happen one after the other. Usually the Past Perfect is not necessary in these cases, although it can be used.  
*After I'd had/had a bath, I went to bed.*  
*As soon as the guests left/had left, I started tidying up.*  
*I sat outside until the sun had gone/went down.*
- 2 The Past Perfect can help to make the first action seem separate, independent of the second, or completed before the second action started.  
*When I had read the paper, I threw it away.*  
*We stayed up until all the beer had gone.*
- 3 Two verbs in the Past Simple can suggest that the first action led into the other, or that one caused the other to happen.  
*When I heard the news, I burst out crying.*  
*As soon as the alarm went off, I got up.*
- 4 The Past Perfect is more common with *when* because it is ambiguous. The other conjunctions are more specific, so the Past Perfect is not so essential.  
*As soon as all the guests left, I tidied the house.*  
*Before I met you, I didn't know the meaning of happiness.*  
*When I opened the door, the cat jumped out.*  
*When I'd opened the mail, I made another cup of tea.*  
See Unit 11 for information on the Past Perfect used for hypothesis.

## UNIT 4

### 4.1 Questions

#### Question forms

Notice these question forms.

- Subject questions with no auxiliary verb  
*Who broke the window?*  
*What happens at the end of the book?*
- Questions with prepositions at the end  
*Who is your email from?*  
*What are you talking about?*
- Question words + noun/adjective/adverb  
*What sort of music do you like?*  
*How big is their new house?*  
*How fast does your car go?*
- Other ways of asking *Why?*  
*What did you do that for?*  
*How come you got here before us?*  
*How come ...?* expresses surprise. Notice that there is no inversion and no *do/does/did* in this question form.

#### what and which

- 1 *What* and *which* are used with nouns to make questions.  
*What size shoes do you take?*  
*Which of these curries is the hottest?*
- 2 Sometimes there is no difference between questions with *what* and *which*.  
*What/Which is the biggest city in your country?*  
*What/Which channel is the match on?*
- 3 We use *which* when the speaker has a limited number of choices in mind.  
*There's a blue one and a red one. Which do you want?*  
We use *what* when the speaker is not thinking of a limited number of choices.  
*What car do you drive?*

## Asking for descriptions

- 1 *What is X like?* means *Give me some information about X because I don't know anything about it.*  
*What's your capital city like?*  
*What are your parents like?*
- 2 *How is X?* asks about a person's health and happiness.  
*How's your mother these days?*  
Sometimes both questions are possible. *What ... like?* asks for objective information. *How ...?* asks for a more personal reaction.  
*'What was the party like?'* *Noisy. Lots of people. It went on till three.*  
*'How was the party?'* *Brilliant. I danced all night. Met loads of great people.*  
*How was your journey?*  
*How's your new job?*  
*How's your meal?*

## Indirect questions

There is no inversion and no *do/does/did* in indirect questions.

- I wonder what she's doing.* \**I wonder what is she doing.*  
*I don't know where he lives.* \**I don't know where does he live.*  
*Tell me when the train leaves.*  
*I didn't understand what she was saying.*  
*I've no idea why he went to India.*  
*I'm not sure where they live.*  
*He doesn't know whether he's coming or going.*

## 4.2 Negatives

### Forming negatives

- 1 We make negatives by adding *not/n't* after the auxiliary verb. If there is no auxiliary verb, we add *do/does/did*.  
*I haven't seen her for ages.*  
*It wasn't raining.*  
*You shouldn't have gone to so much trouble.*  
*We don't like big dogs.*  
*They didn't want to go out.*
- 2 The verb *have* has two forms in the present.  
*I don't have any money.*  
*I haven't got*  
But, in the past ... *I didn't have any money.*
- 3 Infinitives and *-ing* forms can be negative.  
*We decided not to do anything.*  
*I like not working. It suits me.*
- 4 *Not* can go with other parts of a sentence.  
*Ask him, not me.*  
*Buy me anything, but not perfume.*
- 5 When we introduce negative ideas with verbs such as *think*, *believe*, *suppose*, and *imagine*, we make the first verb negative, not the second.  
*I don't think you're right.* \**I think you aren't ...*  
*I don't suppose you want a game of tennis?*
- 6 In short answers, the following forms are possible.  
*I think so.*  
*I believe so.*  
*Are you coming? I hope so.*  
*I don't think so.*  
*I hope not.*  
*I think not* is possible. \**I don't hope so* is not possible.



## Negative questions

- 1 Negative questions can express various ideas.  
*Haven't you finished school yet?* (surprise)  
*Don't you think we should wait for them?* (suggestion)  
*Wouldn't it be better to go tomorrow?* (persuasion)  
*Can't you see I'm busy? Go away!* (criticism)  
*Isn't it a lovely day!* (exclamation)
- 2 In the main use of negative questions, the speaker would normally expect a positive situation, but now expresses a negative situation. The speaker therefore is surprised.  
*Don't you like ice-cream? Everyone likes ice-cream!*  
*Haven't you done your homework yet? What have you been doing?*
- 3 Negative questions can also be used to mean *Confirm what I think is true*. In this use it refers to a positive situation.  
*Haven't I met you somewhere before?* (I'm sure I have.)  
*Didn't we speak about this yesterday?* (I'm sure we did.)
- 4 The difference between the two uses can be seen clearly if we change them into sentences with question tags.  
You *haven't* done your homework yet, *have you?* (negative sentence, positive tag)  
We've met before, *haven't we?* (positive sentence, negative tag)

## Notes

- Sometimes there is little or no difference between *will* and *going to*.  
*We'll run out of money if we aren't careful.*  
*We're going to*
- We use *going to* when we have physical evidence to support our prediction.  
*She's going to have a baby.* (Look at her bump.)  
*Liverpool are going to win.* (It's 4-0, and there are only five minutes left.)  
*That glass is going to fall.* (It's rolling to the edge of the table.)
- We can use *will* when there is no such outside evidence. Our prediction is based on our own personal opinion. It can be more theoretical and abstract.  
*I'm sure you'll have a good time at the wedding.* (This is my opinion.)  
*I reckon Liverpool will win.* (Said the day before the match.)  
*The glass will break if it falls.* (This is what happens to glasses that fall.)
- Compare the sentences.  
*I bet John will be late home. The traffic is always bad at this time.* (= my opinion)  
*John's going to be late home. He left a message on my voicemail.* (= a fact)  
*Don't lend Keith your car. He'll crash it.* (= a theoretical prediction)  
*Look out! We're going to crash!* (= a prediction based on evidence)

## UNIT 5

### Introduction to future forms

There is no one future tense in English. Instead, there are several verb forms that can refer to future time. Sometimes, several forms are possible to express a similar meaning, but not always.

#### will for prediction

- 1 The most common use of *will* is as an auxiliary verb to show future time. It expresses a future fact or prediction – *at some time in the future this event will happen*. This use is uncoloured by ideas such as intention, decision, arrangement, willingness, etc.  
*I'll be 30 in a few days' time.*  
*It will be cold and wet tomorrow, I'm afraid.*  
*Who do you think will win the match?*  
*You'll feel better if you take this medicine.*  
*I'll see you later.*  
This is the nearest English has to a neutral, pure future tense.
- 2 *Will* for a prediction can be based more on an opinion than a fact or evidence. It is often found with expressions such as *I think ...*, *I hope ...*, *I'm sure ...*.  
*I think Labour will win the next election.*  
*I hope you'll come and visit me.*  
*I'm sure you'll pass your exams.*
- 3 *Will* is common in the main clause when there is a subordinate clause with *if*, *when*, *before*, etc. Note that we don't use *will* in the subordinate clause.  
*You'll break the glass if you aren't careful.*  
*When you're ready, we'll start the meeting.*  
*I won't go until you arrive.*  
*As soon as Peter comes, we'll have lunch.*

#### going to for prediction

*Going to* can express a prediction based on a present fact. There is evidence now that something is sure to happen. We can see the future from the present.

*Careful! That glass is going to fall over. Too late!*  
*Look at that blue sky! It's going to be a lovely day.*

#### Decisions and intentions – will and going to

- 1 *Will* is used to express a decision or intention made at the moment of speaking.  
*I'll phone you back in a minute.*  
*Give me a ring some time. We'll go out together.*  
*'The phone's ringing.' 'I'll get it.'*
- 2 *Going to* is used to express a future plan, decision, or intention made before the moment of speaking.  
*When she grows up, she's going to be a ballet dancer.*  
*We're going to get married in the spring.*

#### Other uses of will and shall

- 1 *Will* as a prediction is an auxiliary verb that simply shows future time. The word itself has no real meaning.  
*Tomorrow will be cold and windy.*
- 2 *Will* is also a modal auxiliary verb, and so it can express a variety of meanings. The meaning often depends on the meaning of the main verb.  
*I'll help you carry those bags.* (= offer)  
*Will you marry me?* (= willingness)  
*Will you open the window?* (= request)  
*My car won't start.* (= refusal)  
*I'll love you for ever.* (= promise)  
*'The phone's ringing.' 'It'll be for me.'* (= prediction about the present)
- 3 *Shall* is found mainly in questions. It is used with *I* and *we*.  
*Where shall I put your tea?* (I'm asking for instructions.)  
*What shall we do tonight?* (I'm asking for a decision.)  
*Shall I cook supper tonight?* (I'm offering to help.)  
*Shall we eat out tonight?* (I'm making a suggestion.)