



DISCUSS THE FUTURE – B1

I. About this Lesson

Activity title: Discuss the future

Level: B1

Subject: English as a foreign language

Timing: 50-60 minutes

Resources: Computer with internet access, worksheet

Learning objectives:

- a. Help students talk about the future (short & long term)
- b. Help students use the most appropriate future tense – present continuous, going to or will + infinitive
- c. Develop students' communication skills

Materials needed:

- a. Computer with internet access for Dino webcomic:
<https://dinosandcomics.com/page/20/>
- b. Whiteboard and markers
- c. Comic strips
- d. Copies of worksheets for students to use

II. Lesson scenario

1. Instructions for the teacher

Preparation before the lesson

Before the lesson, provide access to the webcomic from the Dinos and Comics website. Ask students to view the comic and try to guess what the topic of the lesson will be. As this is a short comic (only 3 panels), do not expect students to have questions as it is very straightforward. This is meant to serve as an introduction to what will be taught in this lesson.





Introduction (5 min)

Start the lesson with a short “CHECK IN” by telling students:

- a. For the preparation, I asked you to read the comic strip with the Dinosaurs. What do you think our topic will be today?
 - Let students raise their hands and give opportunities to some to share their thoughts/guesses
- b. Today, we will be exploring the concept of the future – talking about it, planning for it and thinking about it.
- c. Here is the plan for today’s lesson:
 - First, I will split into pairs and you will talk amongst you according to the instructions I will give you
 - Then, we will continue with a quick exercise on the board
 - Finally, we will look at some rules related to future plans and decisions and complete more exercises

Part 1: Divide students in pairs to discuss (10 min)

- a. Divide students in pairs.
- b. Write the following on the board: “Talk amongst you for 1-2 minutes about each of the following: a) Your arrangements for this afternoon/tonight, b) Your plans for the summer, c) Your predictions for the year 2030”
- c. Let students discuss amongst them and monitor the situation to make sure they don’t get off topic (5 min)
- d. You may notice that they are misusing forms of speech to some degree but this lesson will give you an opportunity to revise everything.



Part 2: Role reversal (10 min)

- a. Have students speak about each other's statements from Task 1 in order to make sure that they were listening to one another and so that they can practice speaking properly in the third person (5 min)
 - Ask them to write 2 sentences that start with going to + infinitive and will + infinitive and try to see if students use these statements correctly.
- b. Monitor the situation to make sure that they are formulating correct sentences and keep track of their capacities to do this.

Part 3: Discuss future plans and decisions (25 min)

- a. Show students the comic strip in TASK 1. This will provide a good basis and introduction for the topics of discussion and the ways to properly converse about future plans (5 min)
- b. Then, ask students "When and how do we use the present continuous, going to + infinitive and will + infinitive when we talk about our future plans? (10 min)
 - Ask for students to raise their hands if they know
 - Then go on to explain the following:
- c. It is important to distinguish between the uses of going to + infinitive vs will + infinitive. Even though in a sentence these might sound as having the same meaning, each has a different function.
- d. When we make plans for the future, we use the **present continuous** (i.e. I am flying to Greece next Friday; Are you going on holidays this summer?)



- e. We do not use **will + infinitive** for future plans, only if something is possible for the future (i.e. I will probably go to Spain this summer, if not, I will see you at the party)
- Will + infinitive is usually accompanied with words such as probably, maybe, perhaps, I don't think, I'm sure, I think, etc.
 - We also use it when we make a spontaneous decision whilst we're talking (not before) – i.e. "I'll shut the A/C, it's too cold in here"
- f. We use **going to + infinitive** when we talk about intentions / decisions for the future
- i.e. "I am going to start a diet" or "I am going to cook pasta tonight"
- g. Once you explain this, show them the table in TASK 2 of the worksheet as it will help students keep track of the uses of each form of the future as well as examples to accompany them. (5 min)
- a. If you have time by the end of the lesson, have them go through some of the exercises on the worksheet. If not, ask them to complete them as homework. Make sure that you explain the answers in class the next time you meet so that no gaps are left in students' understanding of the topic of the lesson.



Answers Exercise 1:

1. are you doing
2. will stay
3. are you meeting
4. will rain
5. will probably arrive
6. is hosting / are coming

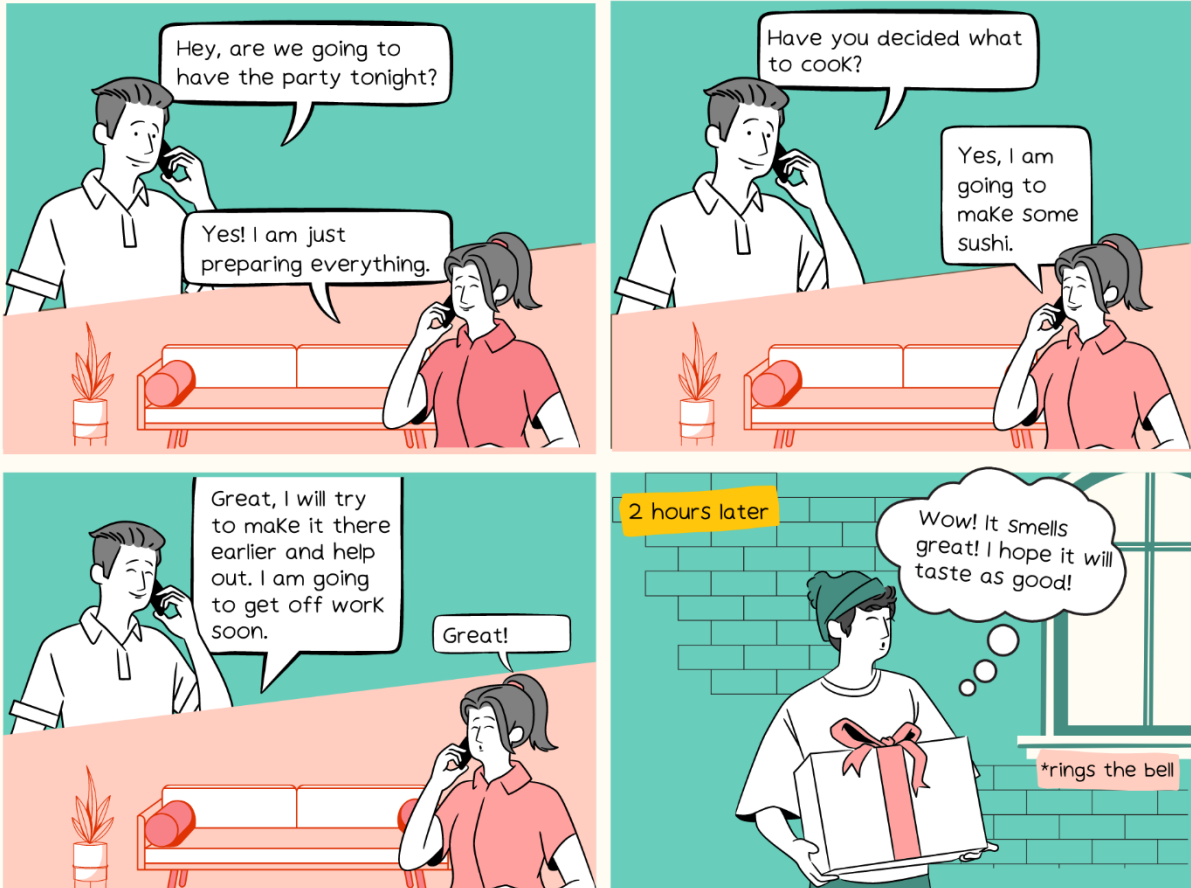
Answers Exercise 2:

1. A: are you going to get
B: I'm going to get
2. A: are going to stay
B: I'm not going to stay
3. A: are you going to choose / will ask
4. A: are you going to do
B: are going to eat

2. Worksheet for student

TASK 1: Sharing favorite comics

EVENING PLANS





TASK 2: Instruction Table for Present Continuous, Going to + Infinitive & Will +

Infinitive

Form of the future	Appropriate use	Examples
Present continuous	1. When we make plans / arrangements for the future	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “I am flying to Greece next Saturday”• “Are you going on holidays this summer?”
Will + infinitive	1. When we talk about something that is possible in the future 2. We do not use it to talk about future plans 3. Often used with probably, I think, perhaps, maybe, I don't think, I'm sure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “I will probably go to Spain this summer, if not, I will see you at the party.”• “I don't know what I'm doing yet. Maybe I will go for drinks tonight.”
Going to + infinitive	1. When we talk about intentions / decisions for the future	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “I am going to go on a diet”• “I am going to cook pasta tonight”

EXERCISE 1: Fill in the blanks using the correct future form

1

What _____
(you/do) on Friday night? Would
you like to go to the zoo?



2

I think I _____
(stay) at home today. I'm not
feeling well.



3

What time

(you/meet) John
tomorrow?



4

Do you think it

(rain) tonight?

Maybe.



5

The bus _____
(probably/arrive) late again.



6

Lucy _____ (host) a
party next Saturday. A lot of
people _____ (come).





EXERCISE 2: Complete the following dialogues using will / going to + infinitive

1. A: What _____ (you/get) Lucy for her name day?

B: I'm not sure yet. Perhaps I _____ (get) her a necklace.

2. A: Have you decided where you _____ (stay) on your holidays in Spain?

B: Well, I _____ (not/stay) at the Playa Hotel, it's too expensive.

3. A: So, you decided to buy a house. Which area _____ (you/choose)?

B: I don't know yet.

A: Mark is a real estate agent. I _____ (ask) him to call you later.

4. A: What _____ (you/do) for Christmas?

B: We _____ (eat) at a fancy French restaurant.

EXERCISE 3: In the space below, write down your plans for the weekend.



III. Modification and Differentiation ideas

- If your class is more advanced, you can help students formulate more complex sentences using more future forms in the same sentence.
- You can also talk about the present simple.
- You can show students the shortcut for I will → I'll

IV. References

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