

5

Our changing world

Future forms • *may, might, could* • Word building • Arranging to meet

STARTER

Scientists predict that global warming will change our world forever. Look at the photos. What do you think will happen?

I think/don't think that ... will ...



THINGS OUR GRANDCHILDREN MAY NEVER SEE

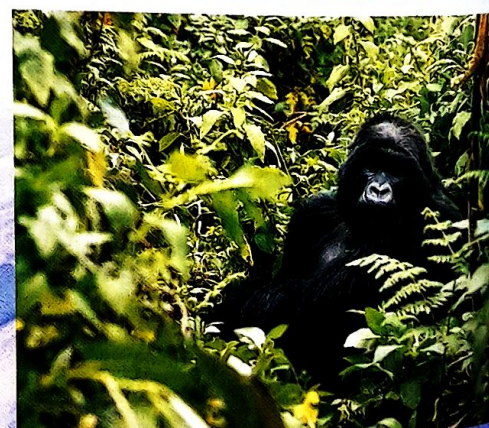
Making predictions

1 T 5.1 Hannah and Dan are expecting their first baby. They're looking at the photos in the newspaper. Listen to their conversation. Answer the questions.

- 1 What is Hannah worried about?
- 2 Why is Dan surprised?
- 3 What do the scientists say about the future?
- 4 What examples of global warming does Hannah mention?
- 5 How does Dan try to reassure Hannah? What does he say?

2 Listen again and complete the lines with the *exact* words from the conversation.

- 1 What _____ the world _____ like when he or she grows up?
- 2 Don't they make you worry about what _____ happen in the future?
- 3 Of course, things _____ change a lot in the next hundred years, ...
- 4 No one says it _____ get warmer or it _____ get warmer any more.
- 5 Scientists say that it definitely _____ warmer.
- 6 They say temperatures _____ rise by up to 4°C.
- 7 You _____ a baby soon.
- 8 We _____ do our bit.
- 9 OK, but maybe it _____ help. It _____ too late already.



GRAMMAR SPOT

- 1 Which predictions are most sure? Which are less sure?

It **might/may/could** change.

It **is going to/will** change.

- 2 Which *two* answers to the question are correct?
Which is not? Why?

‘Can you come on Sunday?’

Sorry, I can't.		I'm seeing		my grandmother.
		I'm going to see		
		I'll see		

- 3 Which of these future forms expresses . . . ?

- an intention
- a prediction
- an arrangement

Our love **will last** forever.

I'm **going to** stop smoking next year.

We're **meeting** James at 11.00 in the conference room.

►► Grammar Reference 5.1–5.3 p139

UNIT 5

5.1 FUTURE FORMS

- There is no future tense in English. Instead, English has several forms that can refer to the future.
I'll see you later. (will)
We're going to see a film tonight. (going to)
I'm seeing the doctor tomorrow. (Present Continuous)
If the traffic's bad, I might be late. (might)
Who knows? You may win! (may)
Take an umbrella. It could rain later. (could)
- The difference between them is not about near or distant future, or certainty. The speaker chooses a future form depending on how he/she sees the future event. Is it a plan, a decision, an intention, an offer, an arrangement, or a prediction?

5.2 will/going to and the Present Continuous

Form

Positive and negative

I'll see you later.
I won't be late.
We're going to stay in a hotel.
We aren't going to rent a cottage.
I'm meeting Jan for lunch.
I'm not seeing her till 2.00.

Question

When will you be back?
Where are you going to stay?
What time are you seeing Jan?

- We avoid saying *going to come* or *going to go*.
We're coming tomorrow.
When are you going home?

Facts and predictions

will

- The most common use of *will* is as an auxiliary verb to show future time. It expresses a future fact or prediction. It is called the pure future or the Future Simple.
We'll be away for two weeks.
Those flowers won't grow under the tree. It's too dark.
Our love will last forever.
You'll be sick if you eat all those sweets!
- Will* for a prediction can be based more on an opinion than a fact.
I don't think Laura will do very well in her exam. She doesn't do any work.
I am convinced that inflation will fall to three per cent next year.

going to

- Going to* can also express a prediction, especially when it is based on a present fact. There is evidence now that something is certain to happen.
She's going to have a baby.
(We can see she's pregnant.)
Our team is going to win the match.
(It's four-nil, and there are only five minutes left to play.)
It isn't going to rain today.
(Look at that beautiful blue sky.)
- Sometimes there is no difference between *will* and *going to*.
This government will ruin the country.
This government is going to ruin the country.

Plans, decisions, intentions, and arrangements

will

Will is used to express a decision, intention, or offer made at the moment of speaking.

I'll have the steak, please. NOT ~~*I have the steak ...*~~
Give me a call. We'll go out for coffee. NOT ~~*We go ...*~~
There's the phone! I'll get it. NOT ~~*I get ...*~~

going to

Going to is used to express a future plan, decision, or intention made before the moment of speaking.

When I grow up, I'm going to be a doctor.
Jane and Peter are going to get married after they graduate.
We're going to paint this room blue.

Arrangements

- The Present Continuous can be used to express a future arrangement between people. It usually refers to the near future.
We're going out with Jeremy tonight.
I'm having my hair cut tomorrow.
What are we having for lunch?
- Think of the things you put in your diary to remind you of what you are doing over the next few days and weeks. These are the kinds of events that are expressed by the Present Continuous for the future. There is often movement or activity.
I'm meeting Peter tonight.
The Taylors are coming for dinner.
I'm seeing the doctor in the morning.
- You can't use the Present Simple for this use.
We're going to a party on Saturday night. NOT ~~*We go ...*~~
I'm having lunch with Sarah. NOT ~~*I have ...*~~
What are you doing this evening? NOT ~~*What do you do ...*~~
- Sometimes there is no difference between an arrangement and an intention.
We're going to get married in the spring.
We're getting married in the spring.

5.3 Future possibility: may/might/could

Form

May, *might*, and *could* are modal verbs.

Positive and negative

I	may might could	see you later.	I	may not might not	get the job.
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Question

Questions about future possibility are often asked with *Do you think ... will ...?*

Do you think you'll get the job?

Use

- May*, *might*, and *could* all express a future possibility.

It	may might could	rain later.
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- May* can be more formal.
The government may increase income tax.
- Could* suggests something less definite.
I could be a champion if I trained hard.
The house is nice, but it could be beautiful.

PRACTICE

Discussing grammar

1 Work with a partner. Decide which is the correct verb form.

- 1 A Have you decided about your holiday yet?
B No, not yet. We've never been to Prague so we *will / might* go there.
- 2 A *Will you / Are you going to* take an umbrella?
B No, I'm not. The forecast says it'll / *might* be fine all day.
- 3 A Why are you making a list?
B Because *I'll go / I'm going* shopping. Is there anything you want?
- 4 A Would you like to go out for a drink tonight?
B Sorry, *I'll work / 'm working* late. How about tomorrow night? *I'll call / I'm calling* you.
- 5 A What *are you doing / will you do* Saturday night?
B I'm not sure yet. I *will / may* go to friends' or they *will / may* come to me.
- 6 A Are you enjoying your job more now?
B No, I'm not. *I'm going to / will* look for another one.
- 7 A Your team's rubbish! It's 2-0 to United!
B Come on. It's only half-time. I think they *are going to / could* still win.
- 8 A You *won't pass / aren't passing* your exams next month if you go out every night.
B I know, I *might / 'll* work harder nearer the time. I promise.

T 5.3 Listen and check. Practise the conversations, paying attention to stress and intonation.