CAPITOLO

12

Plans and Predictions

You can plan tomorrow, you can try to predict it — and if it rains, you'll take an umbrella.

OBIETTIVI

1. I can talk about travel, transport and places to stay, read a train timetable and understand a weather forecast.
2. I can talk about my plans and intentions with *be going to*, and make predictions with *will*, *won't* and *be going to*.
3. I can use the present continuous for arrangements and the present simple for timetables.
4. I can say that something is possible with *might* and *may*, and talk about future conditions with *If..., ...will...*.
5. I can make, accept and refuse invitations, and arrange a time and a place to meet.
6. I can write an invitation email and a reply.

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What are you doing this weekend? Where are you going for your next holiday? Will it rain tomorrow? Questions about the future are some of the most common questions in any language. In Italian you can answer most of them with the present tense or the *futuro semplice*: *sabato vado al mare*, *domani pioverà*. English is different: it has several ways to talk about the future, and the choice depends on what you mean — a plan, an arrangement, a timetable, a prediction, a decision you are making right now, or just a possibility.

In this unit Callum invites Sam and Giulia to spend the half-term holiday at the end of May with his mum in Edinburgh, and the three friends plan a train journey into the Scottish Highlands. You learn the vocabulary of travel, transport, accommodation and the weather forecast; the future forms **be going to**, **will**, the **present continuous** and the **present simple**; **might** and **may** for possibility; and your first **conditional** sentences. You also find out about national parks, the Highlands and the time zones of the United States.

12.1 Vocabulary: Travel, Places to Stay and the Weather

12.1.1 Going on a journey

In the UK people **go on holiday** (AmE *go on vacation*) in the summer, but also during the short school breaks. A **half-term** is a holiday of about a week in the middle of each school term, so English students have three of them every school year. Before you leave, you *book* your tickets and your accommodation, and you *pack* your **luggage** *(ita: bagagli)*: a suitcase or a backpack. Remember from Unit 7 that *luggage* is uncountable: *How much luggage have you got?*, not ✗ *How many luggages*.

Italian has one word, *viaggio*, but English has three, and they are not the same:

- a **journey** is the act of going from one place to another, especially a long one: *The journey from Bristol to Edinburgh takes six and a half hours.*
- a **trip** is a short visit to a place and back again, for fun or for work: *a school trip, a day trip to the seaside, a business trip*.
- **travel** is the general activity of travelling. It is usually a verb (*I love travelling by train*) or an uncountable noun (*air travel, travel insurance*).

Tabella 12.1 Tickets, transport and stations

Word	Meaning	Example
single (ticket) · AmE *one-way*	a ticket to go to a place, not to come back	A single to York, please.
return (ticket) · AmE *round-trip*	a ticket to go to a place and come back	A return to Edinburgh costs more than a single, but it's often cheaper than two singles.
platform	the place in a station where you get on and off a train	The train to Glasgow leaves from platform 4.
departure / arrival	when a train, bus or plane leaves / arrives	Check the departures board for your platform.
delayed	late, leaving or arriving after the planned time	Our flight is delayed by forty minutes.
cancelled · AmE *canceled*	not happening any more	The ferry is cancelled because of the storm.
coach	a comfortable bus for long journeys; also a carriage of a train	The coach to London is cheaper than the train.
ferry / flight	a boat that carries people and cars / a journey by plane	We're taking the ferry to the Isle of Skye.

At the station you buy a **single ticket** or a **return ticket**, find your **platform** and hope your train is not **delayed** or **cancelled**; a **coach** is usually cheaper than the train. Notice the prepositions: we travel **by** train, **by** car, **by** plane, **by** coach (no article), but **on** foot; and we are **on** the train, **on** the bus, **on** the plane, but **in** the car or **in** a taxi.

> ● **ERRORE FREQUENTE**
>
> **Viaggio: journey, trip o travel?** *Travel* come nome è non numerabile e indica l'attività in generale: non si usa per un viaggio preciso.
> ✗ *How was your travel?* → ✓ *How was your journey / your trip?*
> ✗ *We did a travel to Scotland.* → ✓ *We went on a trip to Scotland.* (si dice *go on* o *take* a trip, non *do*)
> ✗ *Have a good travel!* → ✓ *Have a good journey! / Have a good trip!*
> Attenzione anche a *luggage*, non numerabile: ✗ *three luggages* → ✓ *three bags / three pieces of luggage*.

12.1.2 Places to stay

Your *accommodation* (AmE *accommodations*) is the place where you stay on a holiday. In Britain the choice goes from expensive hotels to very cheap places:

Tabella 12.2 Places to stay

Place	What it is
hotel	you book a single room (for one person) or a double room (for two); meals are often extra
B&B (bed and breakfast)	a private house or a small hotel: a room for the night and breakfast in the morning
youth hostel	cheap, simple accommodation, often with bunk beds in shared rooms and a kitchen for guests
campsite · AmE *campground*	a place where you put up a tent or park a caravan (AmE *trailer*)
self-catering flat / cottage	a holiday home with a kitchen, where you cook your own meals

A **B&B** is a very British kind of accommodation; a **youth hostel** *(ita: ostello della gioventù)* is the cheapest option with a roof, and a **campsite** is cheaper still — if you don't mind the rain on your tent.

12.1.3 Phrasal verbs of travel

You met **phrasal verbs** (verb + particle) in Unit 6 (*log in, log out*). Travel English is full of them:

Tabella 12.3 Phrasal verbs of travel

Phrasal verb	Meaning	Example
set off	start a journey	We're setting off at half past seven.
check in / check out	arrive at a hotel or an airport and show your booking / pay and leave a hotel	You have to check in two hours before the flight. We check out at ten.
get on / get off	enter / leave a bus, train, plane, ship or bike	Get off the bus at the station.
get in(to) / get out of	enter / leave a car or a taxi	She got into the taxi. Get out of the car carefully.
pick up	collect somebody, usually by car	Mum is picking us up at the station.
see off	go to the station or airport to say goodbye to somebody	Dad saw us off at the airport.
look forward to + noun / *-ing*	feel happy about something in the future	I'm looking forward to the trip / to seeing you.

Learn **set off** and **check in** well: you will need them on every journey. Notice the difference between *get on / off* (big vehicles you can stand up in, and bikes) and *get in / out of* (cars and taxis). In *look forward to*, *to* is a preposition, so it is followed by a noun or an *-ing* form: ✓ *I'm looking forward to seeing you*, not ✗ *to see you*.

12.1.4 Reading a timetable

Timetables in Britain use the **24-hour clock**: 14.58 is two minutes to three in the afternoon. When you read a timetable aloud, you can say *fourteen fifty-eight* or *two minutes to three*. Look at the timetable that Callum is using to plan the journey (Tabella 12.4).

Tabella 12.4 Train timetable, Bristol → Edinburgh, selected stations (an example timetable: the times are invented for this book)

Station	Train 1	Train 2
Bristol Temple Meads (dep.)	08.30	10.30
Birmingham New Street	09.57	11.57
Sheffield	11.10	13.10
Leeds	11.52	13.52
York	12.20	14.20
Newcastle	13.24	15.24
Edinburgh Waverley (arr.)	14.58	16.58

Notice how we talk about a timetable: with the **present simple**, even when the journey is in the future. *The first train leaves Bristol at 8.30 and gets to Edinburgh at 14.58. What time does it arrive in York? — At 12.20.* You study this use in section 12.3.3.

12.1.5 The weather forecast

In Unit 5 you learnt to describe the weather now (*It's sunny, it's raining*). A **forecast** *(ita: previsione)* says what the weather will be like in the future. British forecasts have their own vocabulary (Tabella 12.5): **showers** are short periods of rain, often with sun in between; **sunny intervals** (or *sunny spells*) are periods of sunshine between clouds.

Tabella 12.5 The language of the weather forecast

Words	Meaning / examples
sunny intervals / sunny spells	periods of sun between clouds
showers · heavy rain · drizzle	short periods of rain · a lot of rain · very light rain
dry / bright	with no rain / with some sun
mild / chilly / freezing	quite warm for the season / quite cold / very cold, below 0 °C
a breeze / strong winds / gales	a light wind / a strong wind / a very strong wind
temperatures will reach… · a maximum (high) of… / a minimum (low) of…	Temperatures will reach 21 degrees. · a low of minus two
degrees Celsius (°C)	18 °C = *eighteen degrees (Celsius)*; −2 °C = *minus two*
It'll be… · There will be…	It'll be sunny. There will be showers in the west.

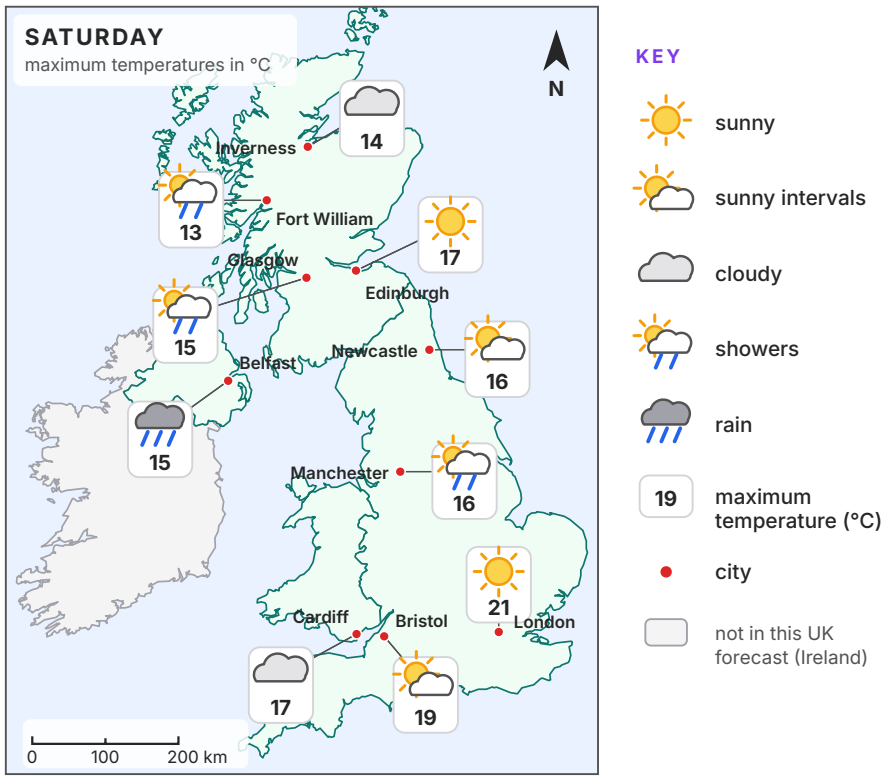


Figura 12.1 A weather forecast map of the UK for Saturday, with standard symbols and maximum temperatures in degrees Celsius. It is an example forecast, written to match the forecast in Tabella 12.9. London, the south-east of England and the east of Scotland are sunny; the west of Scotland and Northern Ireland are wetter.

Look at Figura 12.1. *It'll be sunny in London, with a maximum of 21 degrees. There will be showers in Glasgow and Fort William. It'll be cloudy in Cardiff and Inverness. It'll rain in Belfast.* In forecasts we use *will* (or *'ll*) all the time, because a forecast is a prediction.

APPROFONDIMENTO

The man who invented the forecast. Do you remember Charles Darwin and his voyage on HMS *Beagle* (Unit 8)? The captain of the *Beagle* was Robert FitzRoy (1805–1865). Years later, in 1854, FitzRoy became the head of a new government office for the weather: today it is called the **Met Office**, the UK's national weather service. FitzRoy collected weather reports by telegraph from towns around the coast, and in 1861 *The Times* newspaper began to publish his daily predictions. He called them *forecasts*, and the word is still with us. Many people laughed when his forecasts were wrong — but his storm warnings saved the lives of many sailors.

12.2 Reading: Next Stop, Scotland!

Before you read. Do you prefer travelling by train, by car or by plane? Why? What do you know about Scotland — its cities, its landscape, its weather?

Callum writes a blog about life between two cities, Bristol and Edinburgh. This is his post on the evening before the trip.

Next Stop, Scotland!

Posted by Callum Reid · Friday, 9.45 p.m.

Hi everyone! It's Friday night and my backpack is almost packed. Tomorrow morning I'm setting off on my favourite journey in the world: the journey home to Scotland. As some of you know, I live in Bristol with my dad, but my mum lives in Edinburgh. This half-term I'm spending the week with her — and this time I'm not travelling alone. Sam and Giulia are coming with me!

The plan is simple. Dad is driving us to Bristol Temple Meads at 7.45. Our train leaves at 8.30 and gets to Edinburgh Waverley at 14.58, so the journey takes almost six and a half hours. Sam thinks that's far too long, but I love it. I'm going to sit on the right-hand side of the train, because after Newcastle the line runs along the coast and you can see the sea. Giulia is going to bring her sketchbook and draw the castles. Sam is going to sleep, I think. He always does.

Mum is meeting us at the station, and on Sunday we're having a picnic on Arthur's Seat, the old volcano in the middle of Edinburgh. On Monday we're catching an early train to Glasgow and then taking the West Highland Line to Fort William. People say it's one of the most beautiful railway journeys in the world. We're staying for two nights at a youth hostel near Fort William — I booked it last week, and it costs only £22 a night each. On Wednesday we're coming back to Edinburgh, and next Saturday we're going home to Bristol.

What are we going to do in the Highlands? Well, that depends on the weather. If it's sunny, we'll walk up Glen Nevis to the waterfall. We won't climb Ben Nevis: it's 1,345 metres high, and my mum says we aren't ready for that! We might take a boat trip on Loch Linnhe, or we might just stay in the hostel and play cards. I'm not sure yet.

Now, the weather. According to the forecast, it'll be sunny in Edinburgh tomorrow, with a maximum of 17 degrees, but there will be showers in the west of Scotland. So it might rain in Fort William. Actually, it probably will: it rains a lot in the western Highlands, and the mountains are often in the clouds.

My predictions for the week: Giulia will love Edinburgh, Sam will complain about the midges (tiny Scottish insects that bite!), and my mum will cook far too much food. Oh, and we won't get much sleep in the hostel.

I'll post photos every day, I promise. If the Wi-Fi in the hostel doesn't work, I'll post them when we get back to Edinburgh. See you soon — next stop, Scotland!

Language in context. Each future form in Callum's post has a different job: the **present continuous** for arrangements (*Mum is meeting us*), **be going to** for intentions (*I'm going to sit on the right-hand side*), the **present simple** for the timetable (*Our train leaves at 8.30*), **will / won't** for predictions and promises (*Giulia will love Edinburgh; I'll post photos*), **might** for possibilities, and a **first conditional**: *If it's sunny, we'll walk up Glen Nevis*. You study them all in section 12.3.

12.2.1 Media text: a film trailer

A **trailer** *(ita: trailer, anteprima di un film)* is a short video that makes people want to see a new film. This is the description of the trailer of an imaginary film: the pictures (in brackets) and the words that we hear.

Media text — Trailer: *The Last Light*

[A small island in a grey sea. Wind. A piano plays slowly.]
Voice: This summer, fifteen-year-old Nell is going to spend six weeks on an island with a grandfather she doesn't know.
[Nell on a ferry, looking at her phone. On the screen: NO SIGNAL.]
Nell: Six weeks with no internet? I'm not going to survive!
[An old lighthouse at night. A light moves inside, but nobody lives there.]
Grandfather: Don't go near the lighthouse after dark. Promise me.
[Quick pictures: a storm, an old map, a boat in the fog, Nell running. The music gets louder, then stops.]
Voice: Some secrets stay hidden for ever. This one won't.
THE LAST LIGHT · In cinemas 24 July

A trailer shows a little and hides a lot. The music, the short scenes and the questions without an answer (what is the light in the lighthouse?) create **suspense**. The words are about the future: *is going to spend* for Nell's plans, *won't* for a prediction. And the last line always tells you when you can see the film.

12.3 Grammar: *be going to*, *will*, present tenses for the future, *might*, the first conditional

English has no single “future tense” like the Italian *futuro semplice*. Instead, it has several forms, and the right one depends on **how** you see the future event: is it a plan, an arrangement, a timetable, a prediction or a decision you are making now? Figura 12.2 gives you the general picture; the next sections look at each form.

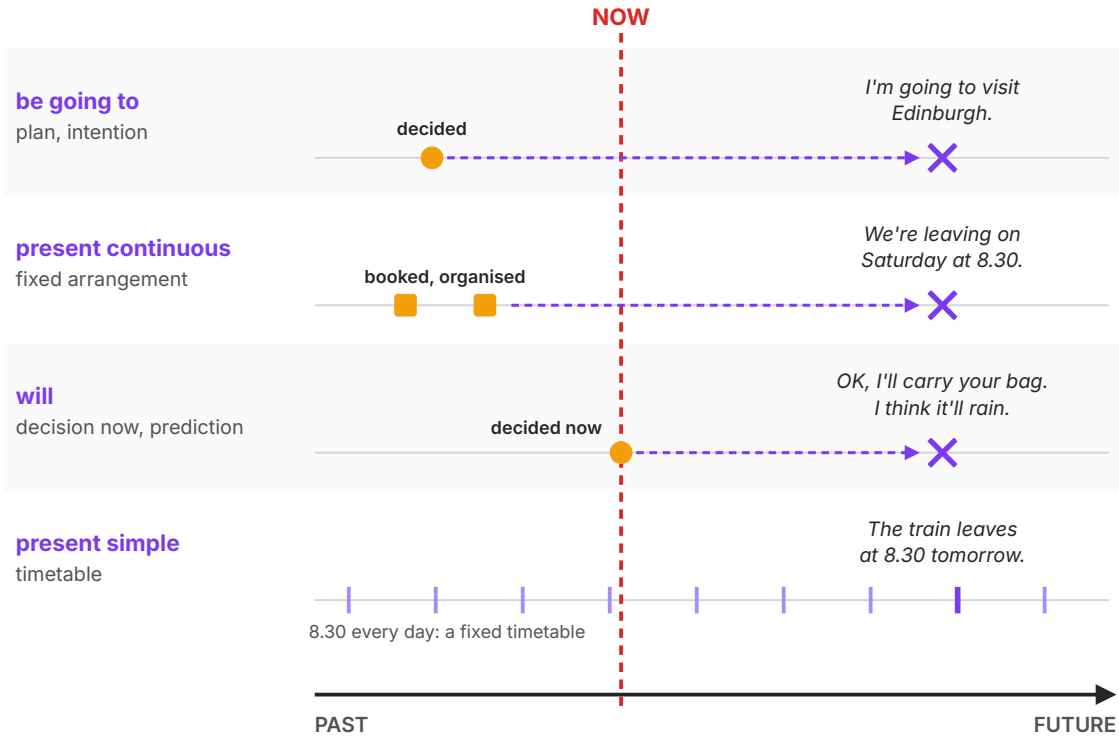


Figura 12.2 Four ways to talk about the future. The amber marks show when the decision was made: before now for *be going to* and the present continuous, at the moment of speaking for *will*. The present simple describes a regular timetable that continues into the future. The violet × is the future event.

12.3.1 *be going to*: plans, intentions and evidence

Tabella 12.6 *be going to*: form

Affirmative	Negative	Questions	Short answers
I **am ('m) going to** stay.	I am not ('m not) going to stay.	**Am** I **going to** stay?	Yes, I am. / No, I'm not.
You / We / They **are ('re) going to** stay.	You / We / They are not (**aren't**) going to stay.	**Are** you / we / they going to stay?	Yes, we are. / No, they aren't.
He / She / It **is ('s) going to** stay.	He / She / It is not (**isn't**) going to stay.	**Is** he / she / it going to stay?	Yes, she is. / No, he isn't.

The structure is **be** (*am / is / are*) + **going to** + **base form**. Only the verb *be* changes: negatives and questions work exactly as with *be* in Unit 1 (*What **are** you going to do?*). We use **be going to**:

- **for plans and intentions**: something that we have decided to do before the moment of speaking. *I'm going to sit by the window. Giulia is going to bring her sketchbook. What are you going to do in the summer? — I'm going to get a job.*
- **for predictions based on evidence**: we can see now that something is going to happen. *Look at those black clouds — it's going to rain. Be careful! You're going to fall! Hurry up — we're going to miss the train!*

With the verb *go*, both *I'm going to go to Edinburgh* and the shorter *I'm going to Edinburgh* (present continuous, 12.3.3) are correct and common. In fast, informal speech *going to* often sounds like *gonna* /ˈgənə/, and you will hear it in songs and films; don't write it in a school text.

GRAMMAR IN ITALIANO

Be going to. Si forma con il verbo *be* al presente (*am / is / are*) + *going to* + forma base del verbo: *I'm going to study*. Negativa e interrogativa si fanno con *be*, come nel presente progressivo: *She isn't going to come. Are you going to buy it?*

Uso e confronto con l'italiano. Indica (1) un'**intenzione** o un progetto già deciso: *Quest'estate imparerò a nuotare / ho intenzione di imparare a nuotare = This summer I'm going to learn to swim*; (2) una **previsione basata su un indizio** presente: *Guarda il cielo: sta per piovere / pioverà = Look at the sky: it's going to rain.* In italiano usiamo spesso il presente o il futuro semplice, o espressioni come *ho intenzione di, sto per*; in inglese serve una forma precisa. ✗ *I going to study* (manca *be*) · ✗ *I'm going study* (manca *to*).

12.3.2 *will* and *won't*: predictions, decisions, offers and promises

Tabella 12.7 *will*: form

Affirmative	Negative	Questions	Short answers
I / You / He / She / It / We / They **will ('ll)** rain / come.	I / You / He / She / It / We / They **will not (won't)** come.	**Will** I / you / she… come? When **will** it stop?	Yes, I will. / No, she won't.

Will is a modal verb, like *can* (Unit 6) and *must* (Unit 11): one form for every person, the base form without *to* after it, and no *do / does*. The short form **'ll** is normal in speech and in informal writing (*I'll, she'll, it'll, we'll*); the negative is **won't**. In short answers we use the full form: *Will you be there? — Yes, I will* (not ✗ *Yes, I'll*). We use *will*:

- **for predictions and opinions about the future**, often with *I think, I don't think, I'm sure, I hope, probably, perhaps*: *I think Giulia will love Edinburgh. It'll be sunny tomorrow. I don't think it'll be expensive. You'll probably meet a lot of people.*
- **for instant decisions**: we decide at the moment of speaking. *"The phone's ringing." "I'll answer it." "There's no milk." "Oh, I'll go and get some."*

- **for offers**: *That bag looks heavy. I'll carry it for you.* In questions, offers and suggestions use *Shall I / Shall we…?* (Unit 6): *Shall I open the window? Shall we meet at six?*
- **for promises**: *I'll post photos every day, I promise. I won't tell anybody.*

Compare: *"I'm going to cook dinner tonight"* (Sam decided earlier: it's his plan) and *Helen: "I'm tired." Sam: "Don't worry, I'll cook dinner"* (he decides now). For predictions, *will* gives an opinion (*I think it'll rain*), while *be going to* is based on evidence we can see now.

DA RICORDARE

won't or want? Be careful: *won't* /wəʊnt/ (= will not) rhymes with *don't*, while *want* /wɒnt/ has the short vowel of *hot*. *I won't go* = non andrò; *I want to go* = voglio andare. And the word order with *probably*: **after** *will* but **before** *won't*: *It'll probably rain. It probably won't rain.*

GRAMMAR IN ITALIANO

Will / won't. *Will* è un ausiliare modale: stessa forma per tutte le persone, seguito dalla forma base senza *to*, negativa *won't*, domanda con inversione (*Will you…?*). Corrisponde spesso al **futuro semplice** italiano, ma solo in alcuni usi: **previsioni e opinioni** (*Penso che pioverà = I think it will rain*), **decisioni prese al momento** (*Rispondo io! = I'll answer it!*: in italiano usiamo il presente!), **offerte** (*Te lo porto io = I'll carry it for you*) e **promesse** (*Non lo dirò a nessuno = I won't tell anybody*).

Attenzione: per i progetti già decisi non si usa *will*, anche se in italiano diciamo "farò": *Quest'estate farò un corso di inglese* (l'ho già deciso) = ✓ *I'm going to do an English course this summer*, meglio di *I will do…*. ✗ *I will to go.* ✗ *She wills come.*

12.3.3 Present tenses with future meaning

The present continuous for arrangements

An **arrangement** is a plan that we have already organised with other people, usually with a time and a place: we have bought the tickets, booked the hostel, agreed to meet. For arrangements English normally uses the **present continuous** (Unit 5) with a future time expression: *We're leaving on Saturday. Mum is meeting us at the station. I'm having lunch with my grandparents tomorrow. What are you doing this evening?* It is the tense of your diary or your calendar: if you can write it in your diary, you can probably use the present continuous.

Often both forms are possible: *We're going to visit Glasgow* (our plan) / *We're visiting Glasgow on Monday* (organised, with a day). Without a time expression, the present continuous normally means *now*.

The present simple for timetables

For events that follow an official **timetable** or programme — trains, buses, flights, films, lessons, opening hours — we use the **present simple**, even for the future: *The train leaves at 8.30 tomorrow. What time does the film start? The museum opens at ten. Term finishes on 18 July.* These events don't depend on our plans: they happen at the same time for everybody.

Future time expressions

Future forms often go with these **time expressions**: *tonight, tomorrow (morning / afternoon / evening), the day after tomorrow, this weekend, next week / month / year / Saturday, in two days / in three weeks, soon, later, one day, in the future*. Remember from Unit 3 that there is no preposition before *next, this, every, last*: ✓ *next Saturday*, not ✗ *on next Saturday*, and no article: ✓ *next week*, not ✗ *the next week* (when you mean the week after this one). **In** + a period of time means "after this period, starting from now": *The train leaves in ten minutes (ita: tra dieci minuti)*.

GRAMMAR IN ITALIANO

Presente per il futuro. In italiano usiamo spesso il presente per il futuro: *Sabato parto per Edimburgo.* In inglese il presente semplice non basta: per i **programmi personali già organizzati** (*arrangements*) si usa il **present continuous**: *Sabato parto* = ✓ *I'm leaving on Saturday* (✗ *I leave on Saturday*, a meno che non si tratti di un orario ufficiale). Il **present simple** si usa invece per **orari e calendari ufficiali**: *Il treno parte alle 8.30 = The train leaves at 8.30.*

Espressioni di tempo. *Tra due giorni = in two days* (✗ *between two days*, ✗ *after two days*); *la settimana prossima = next week* (senza articolo e senza preposizione); *dopodomani = the day after tomorrow*; *stasera = tonight / this evening*.

ESEMPIO SVOLTO

Which future form? Ask yourself four questions. Giulia wants to say: *"Domani parto per la Scozia. Il treno parte alle 8.30. Disegnerò i castelli. Forse piove."*

1. Is it an official timetable? *Il treno parte alle 8.30* → present simple: *The train **leaves** at 8.30.*
2. Is it an arrangement with a fixed time, organised with other people? *Domani parto* (the tickets are booked) → present continuous: *I'm **leaving** for Scotland tomorrow.*
3. Is it my intention, decided before now? *Disegnerò i castelli* → be going to: *I'm **going to draw** the castles.*
4. Is it a prediction, an opinion, a decision I'm making now, an offer or a promise? → will. Is it only a possibility? → might: *Forse piove* → *It **might rain**.*

Result: *I'm leaving for Scotland tomorrow. The train leaves at 8.30. I'm going to draw the castles. It might rain, but I'm sure I'll have a great time!*

12.3.4 *might* and *may*: possibility

When we are not sure about the future, we use **might** or **may** + base form: something is **possible**, but not certain. *We might take a boat trip. It may rain this afternoon. I might not have time.* Like *will*, they are modal verbs: no *-s*, no *to*, no *do*. The negatives are *might not* (*mightn't* in informal BrE) and *may not* (almost never contracted). *Might* and *may* have almost the same meaning here; *might* is more common in conversation, and some speakers feel it is a little less certain. In questions we usually prefer *Do you think…?*: *Do you think it'll rain?* rather than *Might it rain?*

Figura 12.3 puts the forms for predictions on a scale from 0% to 100%. *Might / may* are in the middle: *maybe yes, maybe no*. Compare: *It'll rain* (I'm sure) · *It'll probably rain* · *It might rain* · *It probably won't rain* · *It won't rain* (I'm sure it won't).

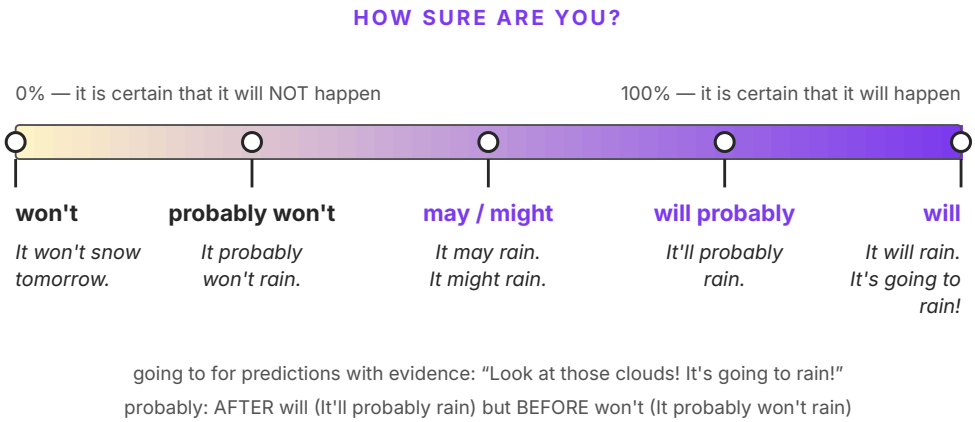


Figura 12.3 How sure are you? Predictions on a scale of certainty, from *won't* (0%) to *will* (100%). *May* and *might* express a possibility in the middle. *Be going to* is also used for a sure prediction when we can see the evidence.

GRAMMAR IN ITALIANO

Might / may: la possibilità. Esprimono qualcosa di possibile ma non sicuro, come l'italiano *forse* + futuro, *può darsi che*, *potrebbe*: *Forse andremo a Skye / Potremmo andare a Skye = We might go to Skye. Può darsi che piova = It may rain / It might rain.* Sono modali: ✗ *it mights rain*, ✗ *I might to come*, ✗ *I don't might* → ✓ *I might not come.*

Con *perhaps / maybe* (= forse) si usa invece *will*: *Perhaps we'll go to Skye = We might go to Skye.* Le due frasi hanno lo stesso significato.

12.3.5 The first conditional (introduction)

The **first conditional** talks about a **possible situation in the future** and its **result**. It has two parts (Figura 12.4): the *if*-clause, with the **present simple**, and the main clause, with **will / won't + base form**. *If it's sunny, we'll walk up Glen Nevis. If you don't hurry, you'll miss the train. If the Wi-Fi doesn't work, I'll post the photos later.*

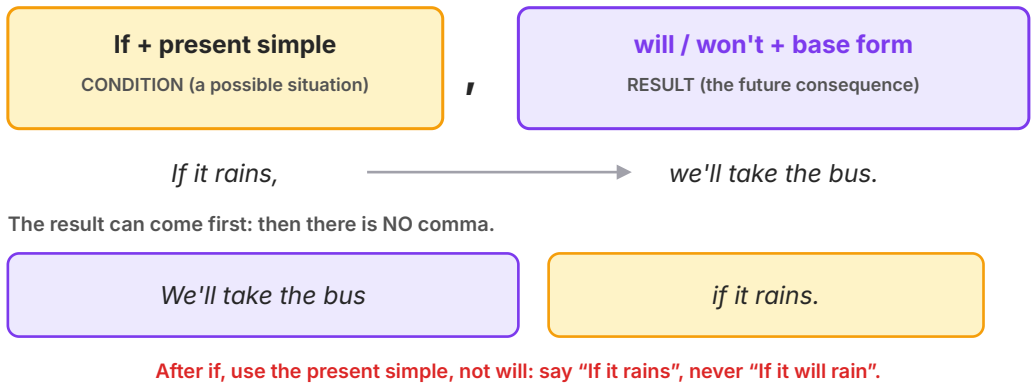


Figura 12.4 The structure of the first conditional: *if* + present simple (the condition), *will / won't* + base form (the result). When the *if*-clause comes first, we put a comma after it; when the result comes first, there is no comma.

Even if the condition is in the future, the verb after *if* is in the **present simple**: ✓ *If it rains tomorrow…*, never ✗ *If it will rain tomorrow…*. The same rule works after **when, as soon as, before, after** and **until** when they talk about the future: *I'll post them **when** we get back. Call me **as soon as** you arrive.* Questions are formed in the main clause: *What will you do if it rains?* In the result clause you can also use an imperative or *might*: *If you see the Loch Ness Monster, send me a photo! If we have time, we might go to Skye.*

GRAMMAR IN ITALIANO

Il periodo ipotetico del primo tipo (first conditional). Esprime una condizione **reale e possibile** nel futuro: *if* + present simple, *will / won't* + forma base. In italiano si usa il presente o il futuro in entrambe le parti: *Se piove (pioverà), prendiamo (prenderemo) l'autobus = If it rains, we'll take the bus.*

La regola d'oro: **dopo *if* non si usa *will***, anche se in italiano diciamo "se pioverà". Lo stesso vale dopo *when* (quando), *as soon as* (appena), *before, after, until* riferiti al futuro: *Ti chiamo appena arrivo / arriverò = I'll call you as soon as I arrive.* La virgola si mette solo quando la frase con *if* viene prima.

ERRORE FREQUENTE

Gli errori più comuni con il futuro.
✗ *If it will rain, we stay at home.* → ✓ *If it rains, we'll stay at home.*
✗ *I will to phone you.* → ✓ *I'll phone you.* · ✗ *She wills come.* → ✓ *She'll come.*
✗ *I go to the cinema with Aoife tonight.* (programma fissato) → ✓ *I'm going to the cinema with Aoife tonight.*
✗ *"The phone is ringing." "I'm going to answer it."* (decisione presa ora) → ✓ *"I'll answer it."*
✗ *See you between two days!* → ✓ *See you in two days!* · ✗ *the next week* → ✓ *next week*

IN SINTESI

be going to + base form: plans and intentions; predictions with evidence — *I'm going to sit by the window. Look! It's going to rain.*
will / won't + base form: predictions and opinions, instant decisions, offers, promises — *I think it'll rain. I'll help you. I won't tell anybody.*
present continuous: arrangements — *We're leaving on Saturday.*
present simple: timetables — *The train leaves at 8.30.*
might / may + base form: possibility — *We might go to Skye.*
first conditional: *If* + present simple, *will* + base form — *If it's sunny, we'll go for a walk.*

12.4 Listening and Speaking: Invitations and Arrangements

An **invitation** *(ita: invito)* is a request to come to a party, a meal, a trip or another event. In English we invite people politely, often with a question, and when we refuse an invitation we always give a reason. On Wednesday evening Sam calls Aoife. Listen while two classmates read the call aloud, then read it.

Tabella 12.8 Listening script — Are you free on Thursday?

Aoife	Hi, Sam!
Sam	Hi, Aoife. Listen, are you free on Thursday evening?
Aoife	Thursday? Let me check... I'm going to the dentist at half past four, but I'm free after that. Why?
Sam	Mum's making pizza for Giulia and Callum before our trip. Would you like to come?
Aoife	I'd love to! What time?
Sam	How about seven? Callum's coming at seven too.
Aoife	Seven's perfect. Shall I bring something?
Sam	Erm... a dessert, maybe?
Aoife	OK, I'll make some brownies.
Sam	Great. And what about Saturday? We're leaving for Scotland at half past eight in the morning. Why don't you come with us? Callum's mum has got room for one more.
Aoife	Oh, thanks, Sam, that's really kind — but I'm afraid I can't. I'm flying to Dublin with Mum on Friday morning, and my uncle's picking us up at the airport. My cousin is getting married in Galway on Saturday.
Sam	A wedding! That sounds great.
Aoife	It'll be fun, but it's going to be a very long day. And you? Are you excited?
Sam	Sort of. Callum says it's going to rain all week.
Aoife	Well, take an umbrella! And if you see the Loch Ness Monster, send me a photo.
Sam	Ha ha. I will, I promise. See you on Thursday, then.
Aoife	See you! Bye.

Aoife accepts Sam's first invitation (*I'd love to!*) and refuses the second politely: she thanks him (*that's really kind*), says no gently (*but I'm afraid I can't*) and gives a reason — her arrangements, in the present continuous (*I'm flying to Dublin with Mum on Friday morning*). Notice also how they fix a time (*How about seven? — Seven's perfect*).

Now listen while your teacher reads the weather forecast for Saturday aloud, the day of the journey, and follow it on the map in Figura 12.1.

Tabella 12.9 Listening script — The weather forecast for Saturday

Forecaster	Good evening. Here is the forecast for Saturday. It's going to be a bright, dry day for most of England. London and the south-east will have the best of the sunshine, with temperatures reaching 21 degrees Celsius. Further west, around Bristol, there will be sunny intervals and a maximum of 19 degrees. Wales will be cloudier, and Cardiff will only reach 17.

In the north of England there might be a few showers in Manchester in the afternoon, with a top temperature of 16, but Newcastle will stay dry, with sunny intervals and 16 degrees too. Northern Ireland won't be so lucky: rain will move in from the Atlantic in the morning, and Belfast will reach just 15 degrees.

And Scotland? A day of two halves. In the east, Edinburgh will be sunny and mild, at 17 degrees. In the west there will be showers, some of them heavy, in Glasgow and Fort William, with maximum temperatures of 15 and 13 degrees. Inverness will be cloudy, with a high of 14. Tonight it'll be chilly in the Highlands, with temperatures falling to 5 degrees.

Looking ahead to Sunday, the rain in the west will spread east, so if you're planning a picnic, don't forget your umbrella!

Tabella 12.10 Useful language — invitations, arrangements and predictions

Function	Expressions
Asking if somebody is free	Are you free on Thursday? · Are you doing anything on Saturday? · What are you doing this evening?
Inviting	Would you like to come…? · Do you want to come…? (informal) · Why don't you come with us? · How about coming to…?
Accepting	I'd love to! · That sounds great / lovely. · Yes, why not? · Thanks, I'd really like that.
Refusing politely	Thanks, that's really kind, but I'm afraid I can't. I'm… · I'd love to, but I'm busy on Saturday. · Sorry, I can't make it. Maybe another time?
Arranging time and place	How about seven? · What time shall we meet? · Shall we say half past six? · Let's meet outside the station. · Is six OK for you? — That's fine / perfect.
Offering	Shall I bring something? · I'll bring some drinks. · I'll pick you up.
Predicting	I think it'll be… · It's going to… · It might… · I'm sure you'll… · I don't think it'll…
Closing	See you on Thursday, then. · See you there! · I'm looking forward to it.

Speaking.

1. **Role play: find a time.** Write your diary for next weekend with three arrangements (Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon, Sunday…). Student A invites Student B to an event (a concert, a match, a picnic, a film). B accepts or refuses, using the present continuous for his/her arrangements. Find a time when you are both free, and agree where to meet. Then swap roles.
2. **The weather presenter.** Look at Figura 12.1 and present the forecast for Saturday for one part of the UK, in about one minute. Use *will, won't, might* and *It's going to…*.
3. **Predictions.** In pairs, make three predictions about your class in ten years' time, and one about the world in 2050. Use *I think…will, I don't think…will, …might…*. Your partner agrees or disagrees: *I'm not sure. I think it might…*

12.5 Writing: An Invitation Email and a Reply

Two weeks before the trip, Callum sent this email to Giulia. Read it, and then read Giulia's reply.

Subject: Half-term in Scotland?

Hi Giulia,

How are you? I hope your history project is going well!

I'm writing because I've got an idea. As you know, my mum lives in Edinburgh, and I'm going to spend half-term with her. Would you like to come with me? Sam is coming too.

We're leaving Bristol on Saturday morning by train and coming back the following Saturday. Mum's flat is big enough for all of us, and she's really looking forward to meeting you. We're also planning two nights in the Highlands — I'm sure you'll love the mountains. Bring warm clothes and a raincoat, because it might be cold and wet up there.

Please let me know by Friday, because we're booking the train tickets at the weekend.

Hope you can come!

Callum

Re: Half-term in Scotland?

Hi Callum,

Thank you so much for the invitation — I'd love to come! I asked Helen and Mark this evening and they said it's fine. I need to ask my parents too, but I'm sure they'll say yes.

It's going to be my first trip to Scotland, so I'm really excited. Can I bring anything for your mum? I'm going to buy her some gianduiotti, the famous chocolates from Turin.

See you at school tomorrow!

Giulia

The structure. An **invitation email** usually has these parts:

- **Opening:** a greeting and a friendly question (*How are you? I hope…*).
- **The reason for writing and the invitation:** *I'm writing because… Would you like to come…?*
- **The details:** who, when, where, how — with the present continuous for arrangements (*We're leaving on Saturday*), *going to* for plans and *will / might* for predictions (*you'll love the mountains; it might be cold*).
- **Practical information and a request for a reply:** *Bring warm clothes… Please let me know by Friday.*
- **Closing:** *Hope you can come! / Hope to see you there!* and your name.

A **reply** is shorter: thank the person, accept or refuse (with a reason, and maybe an alternative: *Maybe next time?*), add a question or an offer, and close.

Register. Both emails are informal: contractions (*I'm, I'd, it's*), friendly phrases (*Hope you can come!*), first names, no formal opening like *Dear Sir*.

Checklist. Before you send your invitation, check that:

- you start with a greeting and a friendly sentence;
- the invitation is clear (*Would you like to…? / Why don't you…?*);
- you give the details: what, when, where, who, how you are travelling;
- you use the present continuous for arrangements and *will / might* for predictions;
- you ask for a reply by a certain day and finish with a friendly closing;
- after *if* and *when* you use the present simple (*when you arrive*, not ✗ *when you will arrive*).

Writing task. Invite an English-speaking friend to spend a weekend in your town or to come on a trip with you and your family (80–120 words). Give all the details and say what you are going to do together.

12.6 Culture: Travelling in the UK and the US

The **Scottish Highlands**, the mountains of the north and west of Scotland, are one of the emptiest areas of Europe: long valleys, lochs (lakes), islands and very few towns. Here you find the highest mountain in the UK, **Ben Nevis** (1,345 m, Unit 10), near the town of Fort William. The **West Highland Line** runs from Glasgow to Fort William and on to Mallaig, on the west coast. Near Glenfinnan the line crosses a long, curved viaduct with 21 arches, built at the end of the 1890s; in summer a steam train crosses it, and millions of people know it from the Harry Potter films.

To protect wild places, many countries create **national parks**. **Yellowstone**, mostly in the state of Wyoming, became the first national park in the USA on 1 March 1872, and it is often called the first national park in the world. Its most famous geyser, Old Faithful, erupts so regularly that the park rangers can predict the next eruption — a real-life forecast! Today the US has more than sixty national parks. In the UK the first one, the Peak District, opened in 1951, and the largest is the Cairngorms, in the Highlands.

The United States is so big that it doesn't have one time for the whole country. The contiguous United States — the 48 states between Canada and Mexico — spans four main **time zones**: Eastern, Central, Mountain and Pacific (Figura 12.5), and Alaska and Hawaii have their own. When it is noon in New York, it is only 9 a.m. in Los Angeles. Standard time zones were introduced by the American railway companies in 1883, because every town had its own local time and the timetables were chaos.

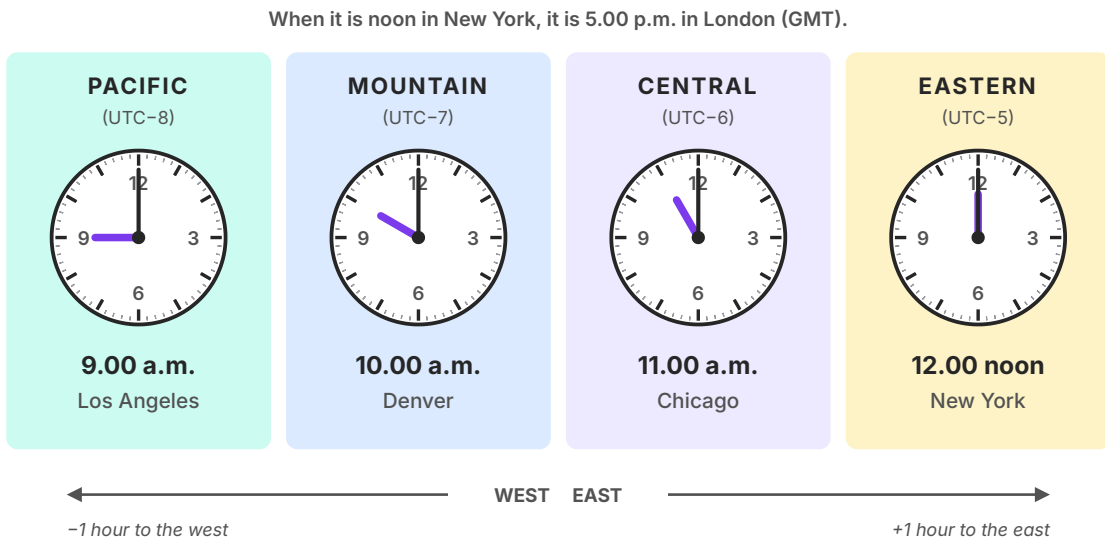


Figura 12.5 The four main time zones of the contiguous United States in winter (standard time). Each zone is one hour behind the zone to its east: when it is 12.00 noon in New York, it is 11.00 in Chicago, 10.00 in Denver and 9.00 in Los Angeles — and 17.00 in London.

COLLEGAMENTI

Geography and maths: why one hour? The Earth turns 360° in 24 hours, so it turns 360 ÷ 24 = **15° every hour**. In theory, every time zone is 15° of longitude wide, and each zone to the east is one hour ahead. In 1884 an international conference in Washington chose the meridian of Greenwich, in London, as longitude 0°, and time around the world is still measured from it. In practice, the borders of time zones follow countries and states: Italy is on Central European Time, one hour ahead of the UK all year, because both countries move their clocks forward in spring and back in autumn.

Compare with Italy. How many time zones does Italy have? Which Italian national parks do you know, and which is the oldest? (Find out.) Plan a three-day trip in Italy for an English-speaking friend: write five sentences using *be going to*, the present continuous and *might*, and one sentence with *If..., we'll...*.

SINTESI

- Travel: *journey* (going from one place to another), *trip* (a short visit), *travel* (the activity, uncountable); *luggage* is uncountable.
- Transport and tickets: *single / return ticket, platform, delayed, cancelled, coach, ferry, flight*; *by train* but *on foot*.
- Places to stay: *hotel, B&B, youth hostel, campsite, self-catering*; phrasal verbs: *set off, check in / out, get on / off, get in / out of, pick up, see off, look forward to + -ing*.
- The weather forecast: *sunny intervals, showers, mild, chilly, a maximum of 17 degrees, It'll be..., There will be...*
- **be going to** + base form: plans and intentions, predictions with evidence (*ho intenzione di, sta per*).
- **will / won't**: predictions and opinions, instant decisions, offers, promises (*futuro*, ma anche *Rispondo io! = I'll answer it*).
- **present continuous** for arrangements (*We're leaving on Saturday*); **present simple** for timetables (*The train leaves at 8.30*).
- **might / may** + base form: possibility (*forse, può darsi che*); *probably* after *will*, before *won't*.
- **First conditional**: *If* + present simple, *will* + base form; no *will* after *if, when, as soon as*.
- Time expressions: *tomorrow, next week* (no *the*), *in two days* (*tra due giorni*), *the day after tomorrow, soon*.
- Invitations: *Would you like to...? Why don't you...? — I'd love to! / Thanks, but I'm afraid I can't. I'm...*
- Yellowstone (1872) was the first US national park; the contiguous USA has four main time zones.

ESERCIZI

Vocabulary

1. ● Match the phrasal verbs (1–6) with their meanings (a–f). 1 set off · 2 check in · 3 get on · 4 get off · 5 pick up · 6 see off — a leave a bus, a train or a plane · b go to the station or the airport to say goodbye to somebody · c start a journey · d collect somebody, usually by car · e enter a bus, a train or a plane · f arrive at a hotel or an airport and show your booking

2. ● Find the odd one out and say why. a hotel · youth hostel · campsite · platform — b sunny · showers · cloudy · delayed — c coach · ferry · luggage · flight — d suitcase · backpack · bag · souvenir

3. ● The _____ from Bristol to Edinburgh takes six and a half hours.

   A. travel
   B. journey
   C. voyage
   D. tour

4. ● Our flight is _____ : it's leaving two hours late.

   A. cancelled
   B. booked
   C. missed
   D. delayed

5. ● The hotels are all full, but you can put up your tent at the _____ .

   A. campsite
   B. platform
   C. B&B
   D. coach

6. ●● Complete the forecast with the words in the box: *degrees · forecast · intervals · mild · minus · showers*. a According to the weather _____ , it'll rain tomorrow. b It'll be cloudy in the morning, with sunny _____ in the afternoon. c Take an umbrella: there might be some _____ . d Tonight will be very cold in the mountains: _____ two. e Temperatures will reach 19 _____ in Bristol. f It's very _____ for October: 18 degrees!

7. ●● Complete with the correct form of *get on, get off, get in(to)* or *get out of*. a Hurry up and _____ the train — it's leaving! b We _____ the bus at the stop opposite the station. c Callum's mum opened the car door and we _____ the car. d When the taxi stopped, Giulia paid and _____ it. e Don't _____ the plane until it stops completely.

Grammar

8. ● Complete with the correct form of *be going to* and the verb in brackets. a I _____ (visit) my grandparents this summer. b Callum _____ (not / take) the bus. c _____ you _____ (buy) a new suitcase? d They _____ (stay) in a youth hostel. e Giulia _____ (bring) her sketchbook. f What _____ you _____ (do) at the weekend?

9. ● Look at that sky! It _____ rain.

   A. is going to
   B. will to
   C. rains
   D. is raining

10. ● "I'm thirsty." "Wait, I _____ get you a glass of water."

    A. am going to
    B. 'll
    C. get
    D. am getting

11. ● The bus to the airport _____ at 6.15 tomorrow morning — it's in the timetable.

    A. leave
    B. is leave
    C. leaves
    D. will leaving

12. ● I'm not sure, but we _____ go to Skye.

    A. will to
    B. going
    C. are
    D. might

13. ●● Look at Giulia's notes for the trip and write sentences with the present continuous. *Sat: 8.30 train to Edinburgh with Sam and Callum · Sun: picnic on Arthur's Seat · Mon: train to Fort William · Wed: back to Edinburgh · next Sat: back to Bristol.* Example: *On Saturday she's catching the 8.30 train to Edinburgh with Sam and Callum.*

14. ●● Complete with *will ('ll)* or *won't* and the verb in brackets. Then say if each sentence is a prediction, an offer, a promise or an instant decision. a I promise I _____ (not / tell) anybody. b I think Sam _____ (love) the Highlands. c "This bag is so heavy!" "I _____ (carry) it for you." d Don't worry, you _____ (not / be) late. e "Tea or coffee?" "I _____ (have) tea, please." f I _____ (phone) you every evening — I promise.

15. ●● Choose the correct form. a I've decided: I (*will / am going to*) learn to play the guitar. b The phone is ringing. — (*I'll / I'm going to*) answer it! c We (*are meeting / will meet*) Aoife at the café at 4.30 — we arranged it yesterday. d The film (*starts / is going to start*) at 8.15. e I think it (*will / is*) be cold in Scotland. f Careful! You (*are going to / will*) drop those plates!

16. ●● Rewrite the sentences with *might* or *might not*. a Perhaps we'll go to Skye. b Perhaps it'll snow tonight. c Perhaps Callum won't come. d Maybe I'll buy a souvenir. e Perhaps they won't have time.

17. ●● Complete the first conditional sentences with the verbs in brackets. a If it _____ (rain) tomorrow, we _____ (visit) the museum. b If you _____ (not / hurry), you _____ (miss) the train. c We _____ (climb) the hill if the weather _____ (be) good. d If Giulia _____ (see) a deer, she _____ (take) a photo. e What _____ you _____ (do) if the train is late? f If I _____ (not / feel) well, I _____ (not / come).

18. ●● Find and correct the mistake in each sentence. a ✗ I will to call you tonight. b ✗ If it will be sunny, we'll go to the beach. c ✗ Are you going come to the party? d ✗ I see Callum tomorrow at ten — we arranged it last week. e ✗ She might comes later. f ✗ See you between two weeks!

19. ●●● Translate into English. a Sabato prossimo vado a Edimburgo con Sam: abbiamo già i biglietti. b Penso che domani pioverà; forse resteremo a casa. c Se perdi il treno, ti vengo a prendere io.

Reading and Listening

20. ● Read *Next Stop, Scotland!* again. True (T), false (F) or doesn't say (DS)? a Callum's mum lives in Bristol. b The three friends are travelling to Edinburgh by train. c The train arrives in Edinburgh at about three o'clock in the afternoon. d Sam loves long train journeys. e They're going to climb Ben Nevis. f The youth hostel costs £22 a night for each person. g The friends are going to travel first class.

21. ●● Answer the questions about the blog post. a How are the friends getting to the station in Bristol? b Why is Callum going to sit on the right-hand side of the train? c What are they doing on Sunday? d What will they do in the Highlands if it's sunny? e Why won't they climb Ben Nevis? f What will Callum do if the Wi-Fi in the hostel doesn't work?

22. ●● Find words or phrases in the blog post that mean: a start a journey (phrasal verb); b reserved a room or a ticket before (verb, past simple); c a cheap place to stay, often with shared rooms; d a report that says what the weather will be like; e small flying insects that bite; f the highest temperature of the day.

23. ● Read the listening script *Are you free on Thursday?* (Tabella 12.8) and complete Aoife's diary. a Thursday, 4.30: _____ b Thursday, 7.00: _____ (and what is she bringing?) c Friday morning: _____ d Saturday: _____

24. ●● Read the forecast (Tabella 12.9) and look at Figura 12.1. Answer the questions. a Which city will be the warmest, and what will the maximum temperature be? b Which two cities will have sunny intervals? c What will the weather be like in Belfast? d How many degrees will there be in Fort William, and what will the weather be like? e How cold will it be tonight in the Highlands? f What will the weather be like on Sunday? Is Callum's picnic in danger?

25. ●● Read the description of the trailer *The Last Light* in Section 12.2. a What kind of film is it: a comedy, a mystery or a documentary? Find two clues. b Where does the story take place, and for how long? c Find one example of *be going to* and one of *won't*. What does each one express? d Why doesn't the trailer tell us what the light in the lighthouse is? e When can people see the film?

Writing and Speaking

26. ● Complete the sentences about yourself. a This evening I'm… b Next summer I'm going to… c I think that in ten years I'll… d If it rains on Saturday, I'll… e Tomorrow I might…

27. ●● Do the writing task in section 12.5: an invitation email to an English-speaking friend (80–120 words). Follow the checklist.

28. ●● You receive an invitation from Sam to a picnic on Saturday, but you can't go. Write a reply (60–80 words): thank him, refuse politely, explain your arrangements and suggest another day.

29. ●●● Speaking. You are planning a day out with a friend next weekend. Talk for about one minute: say where you are going and how you are travelling, what you are going to do, what the weather will probably be like, and what you will do if it rains.

Towards B1

30. ●● Read the text and choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D) for each gap.
Next summer my family and I (1) ___ to Canada: we booked the flights last month. Our plane (2) ___ London at 10.15 on 2 August. My dad has got lots of plans: he's (3) ___ to hire a car and drive to the Rocky Mountains. I think it (4) ___ be amazing. If we (5) ___ a bear, I'll take a photo — from the car!
(1) A are flying · B fly · C will flying · D flies
(2) A is going · B leaves · C will leaving · D leave
(3) A will · B might · C going · D go
(4) A is · B might to · C going · D will
(5) A will see · B see · C seeing · D are seeing

31. ●● Open cloze. Write ONE word in each gap.
Hi Aoife! Are you (1) ___ on Friday evening? We're (2) ___ a picnic in the park — would you (3) ___ to come? If it (4) ___, we'll have it at my house instead. (5) ___ we meet at the bus stop at six? Giulia

32. ●●● Complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first. Use the word in brackets and two to five words. a I've arranged to meet Callum at four. (MEETING) I _____ at four. b Perhaps it will snow tomorrow. (MIGHT) It _____ tomorrow. c My plan is to study medicine at university. (GOING) I _____ medicine at university. d The train's departure time is 9.15. (LEAVES) The train _____ 9.15. e Hurry up, or you'll miss the bus. (IF) You'll miss the bus _____ hurry up.

33. ●● Short message. A friend invites you to a party on Saturday, but you can't go. Write a message (35–45 words): thank your friend, say why you can't go (an arrangement) and suggest another day to meet.

PER APPROFONDIRE

- MUR — R. Murphy, *Essential Grammar in Use*: the units on *be going to*, *will*, the present continuous for the future and *might*, with extra practice.
- EGU — R. Murphy, *English Grammar in Use*: the comparison of future forms (*will* or *going to*?) and conditional sentences with *if* and *when*.
- SWA — M. Swan, *Practical English Usage*: entries on the future, *may* and *might*, *journey / trip / travel* and present tenses after *if* and *when*.
- OAL — *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary*: the phrasal verbs of travel and the pronunciation of *won't* and *want*.
- CGE — R. Carter, M. McCarthy, *Cambridge Grammar of English*: how spoken English talks about the future.

Glossario del capitolo

Be going to
avere intenzione di, stare per — plans and intentions; predictions with evidence: *It's going to rain.*

Campsite
campeggio — a place where you can put up a tent (AmE *campground*)

Check in / check out
fare il check-in / lasciare l'albergo — arrive and show your booking / pay and leave a hotel

Coach
pullman — a comfortable bus for long journeys; also a carriage of a train

Delayed / cancelled
in ritardo / cancellato — late / not happening: *Our flight is delayed.*

First conditional
periodo ipotetico del primo tipo — *if* + present simple, *will* + base form: *If it rains, we'll stay in.*

Forecast
previsione (del tempo) — a report that says what the weather will be like

Get on / get off
salire su / scendere da (autobus, treno, aereo, bici); with cars and taxis: *get in / get out of*

Half-term
vacanza di metà trimestre — a school holiday of about a week in the middle of a term (UK)

Journey
viaggio (spostamento) — the act of going from one place to another: *The journey takes six hours.*

Luggage
bagagli — the bags and suitcases you take on a journey (uncountable: *a piece of luggage*)

Might / may
forse, potrebbe — possibility: *We might go to Skye.*

Platform
binario — the place in a station where you get on and off a train: *platform 4*

Set off
partire, mettersi in viaggio — start a journey: *We set off at seven.*

Showers / sunny intervals
rovesci / schiarite — short periods of rain / periods of sun between clouds

Single / return ticket
biglietto di sola andata / di andata e ritorno — AmE *one-way / round-trip ticket*

Time zone
fuso orario — an area of the world with the same official time

Trip
gita, viaggio breve — a short visit to a place and back: *a school trip, a day trip*

Will / won't
futuro semplice — predictions, instant decisions, offers, promises: *I'll help you.*

Youth hostel
ostello della gioventù — cheap, simple accommodation, often with shared rooms

Soluzioni

1. 1 c · 2 f · 3 e · 4 a · 5 d · 6 b.

2. a platform (it's part of a station; the others are places to stay) · b delayed (it describes transport; the others are weather words) · c luggage (it's what you carry; the others are ways of travelling) · d souvenir (it's something you buy to remember a place; the others are things you put your clothes in).

3. B (journey). *Il viaggio da un luogo a un altro = journey; travel non si usa per un viaggio preciso; voyage è un viaggio per mare.*

4. D (delayed). *In ritardo = delayed; cancelled = cancellato.*

5. A (campsite).

6. a forecast · b intervals · c showers · d minus · e degrees · f mild.

7. a get on · b got off (also *get off*, for a habit) · c got in / got into · d got out of · e get off.

8. a am going to visit / 'm going to visit · b is not going to take / isn't going to take / 's not going to take · c Are ... going to buy · d are going to stay / 're going to stay · e is going to bring / 's going to bring · f are ... going to do.

9. A (is going to). *Previsione basata su un indizio presente (il cielo): be going to.*

10. B ('ll). *Decisione presa nel momento in cui si parla: will.*

11. C (leaves). *Orario ufficiale: present simple.*

12. D (might). *Possibilità: might + forma base.*

13. On Saturday she's catching / taking the 8.30 train to Edinburgh with Sam and Callum. · On Sunday she's having a picnic on Arthur's Seat. · On Monday she's catching / taking the train to Fort William. · On Wednesday she's coming / going back to Edinburgh. · Next Saturday she's coming / going back to Bristol. *(Sono accettabili anche altri verbi adatti al present continuous, per esempio travelling.)*

14. a won't tell (promise) · b will love / 'll love (prediction) · c 'll carry / will carry (offer) · d won't be (prediction) · e 'll have / will have (instant decision) · f 'll phone / will phone (promise).

15. a am going to (intenzione già decisa) · b I'll (decisione immediata) · c are meeting (appuntamento fissato) · d starts (orario) · e will (opinione/previsione con I think) · f are going to (previsione con un indizio evidente).

16. a We might go to Skye. · b It might snow tonight. · c Callum might not come. · d I might buy a souvenir. · e They might not have time. *(Anche may / may not è corretto.)*

17. a rains, will visit / 'll visit · b don't hurry, will miss / 'll miss · c will climb / 'll climb, is · d sees, will take / 'll take · e will ... do · f don't feel, won't come.

18. a I will call / I'll call you tonight. (no *to* dopo will) · b If it is / it's sunny, we'll go to the beach. (no will dopo if) · c Are you going to come to the party? · d I'm seeing Callum tomorrow at ten. (appuntamento → present continuous; accettabile anche *I'm going to see*) · e She might come later. (no -s dopo might) · f See you in two weeks!

19. a Next Saturday I'm going to Edinburgh with Sam: we've already got the tickets. (anche: we already have the tickets) · b I think it will rain / it'll rain tomorrow; we might stay at home. (anche: perhaps / maybe we'll stay at home) · c If you miss the train, I'll pick you up. (anche: I'll come and get you)

20. a F (she lives in Edinburgh) · b T · c T (14.58 = two minutes to three) · d F (Sam thinks the journey is far too long) · e F (they won't climb it: Callum's mum says they aren't ready) · f T · g DS (the post doesn't say which class they are travelling in).

21. a Callum's dad is driving them (at 7.45). · b Because after Newcastle the line runs along the coast and you can see the sea. · c They're having a picnic on Arthur's Seat. · d They'll walk up Glen Nevis to

the waterfall. · e Because it's 1,345 metres high and Callum's mum says they aren't ready for it. · f He'll post the photos when they get back to Edinburgh.

22. a set off (setting off) · b booked · c youth hostel · d (weather) forecast · e midges · f maximum.

23. a the dentist · b pizza at Sam's house (with Giulia and Callum); she's bringing / making brownies (a dessert) · c she's flying to Dublin (with her mum); her uncle is picking them up at the airport · d her cousin's wedding in Galway (her cousin is getting married).

24. a London, with a maximum of 21 °C. · b Bristol and Newcastle. · c It will rain; the maximum will be 15 °C. · d 13 °C, with showers (some of them heavy). · e Temperatures will fall to 5 degrees. · f The rain in the west will spread east. Yes: Callum's picnic on Arthur's Seat is on Sunday, so they might need an umbrella.

25. a A mystery. Clues (any two): a light moves in the lighthouse but nobody lives there; the grandfather's warning; secrets; the storm, the old map, the fog; the music. · b On an island, for six weeks (in the summer). · c *Nell is going to spend six weeks… / I'm not going to survive* (a plan, an intention); *This one won't* (a prediction: this secret won't stay hidden). · d To create suspense: people want to see the film to find out. · e From 24 July, in cinemas.

26. Open answers. Example: a This evening I'm having dinner with my cousins. b Next summer I'm going to learn to sail. c I think that in ten years I'll be at university abroad. d If it rains on Saturday, I'll watch a film at home. e Tomorrow I might go swimming after school. *Controlla: present continuous in a, going to in b, will in c, present simple dopo if in d, might + forma base in e.*

27. Model answer (103 words): Hi Emma, How are you? I hope school is going well! I'm writing because I've got an idea. Would you like to spend the last weekend of May with us in Turin? My parents are happy to have you. You can fly to Turin on Friday evening and we'll pick you up at the airport. On Saturday we're going to visit the Egyptian Museum and go up the Mole Antonelliana. On Sunday we're having lunch with my grandparents in the hills. It might be hot, so bring a hat and some light clothes. Please let me know by next Friday. Hope you can come! Marta

28. Model answer (64 words): Hi Sam, Thanks so much for inviting me to your picnic — it sounds great! I'm afraid I can't come on Saturday, though. My family and I are visiting my aunt in Milan for her birthday, and we're coming back late on Sunday evening. Are you free next Saturday? Maybe we could go to the park then. I'll bring the sandwiches! See you soon, Marta

29. Model answer: *Next Saturday I'm going to the seaside with my friend Luca. We're taking the train at 8.15 — the tickets are already booked — and the journey takes about an hour and a half. We're going to swim, play beach volleyball and eat pizza by the sea. The forecast says it'll be sunny and quite hot, about 28 degrees, but there might be a storm in the evening. If it rains, we'll go to a café or visit the old town, and we'll catch an earlier train home. Valutare: varietà delle forme future (present continuous, going to, will, might, first conditional), fluidità, pronuncia di won't / 'll.*

30. (1) A are flying (appuntamento organizzato) · (2) B leaves (orario) · (3) C going (he's going to hire) · (4) D will (opinione con I think) · (5) B see (present simple dopo if).

31. (1) free · (2) having (also: planning / organising) · (3) like · (4) rains · (5) Shall (also: Can / Could / Should).

32. a 'm meeting Callum / am meeting Callum · b might snow · c 'm going to study / am going to study · d leaves at · e if you don't / if you do not.

33. Model answer (about 45 words): Hi Leo, thanks for the invitation to your party — it's really kind of you! Sorry, but I can't come on Saturday: I'm playing in a volleyball tournament in Bologna all day. Are you free on Sunday afternoon? We could go for an ice cream! Anna