

Wh- Questions in Future Form

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Introduction

Wh- questions always begin with one of the **wh- question words** (interrogative pronouns), which show what kind of information is wanted.

The **wh- questions in the future** tense are used to ask for information in the future.

Form

In the future tense (both simple and continuous), we use the **future forms** of the auxiliary and modal verbs.

There are two means we can use to ask about the future: **will** and **to be going to**.

Will

The structure of **wh- questions in future form** with will is:

- **Wh- question word + will + subject + verb (bare infinitive) + ...?**
- **What/who + will + verb (bare infinitive) + ...?**
- **Which/whose + noun + will + verb (bare infinitive) + ...?**

To be going to

The structure of **wh- questions in future form** with to be going to is:

- **Wh- question word + to be (present form) + subject + going to + verb (bare infinitive) + ...?**
- **What/who + to be (present form) + subject + going to + verb (bare infinitive) + ...?**
- **Which/whose + noun + to be (present form) + subject + going to + verb (bare infinitive) + ...?**

Example

Will:

- ***When** will you visit us?*
- ***What** will happen now?*
- ***Who** will arrive first?*
- ***Which** car will win the race?*
- ***Whose** project will win?*

To be going to:

- **Where** are you going to hang the picture?
- **What** are you going to wear tonight?
- **Whom** is she going to marry?
- **Which** course are they going to attend?
- **Whose** dog are we going to adopt?

Use

We use **will** to talk about:

- immediate decisions;
- predictions;
- feelings.

We use **to be going to** to talk about:

- previously decided plans;
- future situations we have information about.

Summary

Wh-questions start with one of the **wh- question words**: **what, when, where, which, who, whom, whose, why** and **how**.

In the future we use them with the auxiliary **will** (for immediate decisions, predictions and feelings) and the phrase **to be going to** (for previously decided plans and future situations we have information about).

Their structures are:

- wh- question word followed by will, subject and bare infinitive of the verb;
- wh- question word followed by the present simple of to be, the subject, going to and the bare infinitive of the verb.

For example:

— “**Where will she live?**” = **Where** introduces an **open question**, because you can give an infinite number of answers.

◆ “**Will she move to Spain next year?**” = **Yes/no questions** require short answers followed by **yes** or **no**, they are also called **closed questions**.

NOTE: An auxiliary (**be/have...**) or a modal verb (**can/could/would...**) must be placed after a wh- question and before a subject.