

Present Tenses for Future: Arrangements vs. Timetables

INTERMEDIATE

Focus: Personal decisions, Social arrangements, Fixed diary entries, Planned activities, Transport schedules, Public programs, Cinema and theater times, Fixed institutional calendars, Go/Come/Leave, Arriving tomorrow

1. Present Continuous: Personal Future Arrangements

We use the **Present Continuous** (*am/is/are + verb-ing*) to talk about personal plans and social arrangements. These are things you have already decided to do and usually have organized (you know the time and place).

- **Structure:** Subject + am/is/are + verb-ing
- **Usage:**
 - **Diary Appointments:** *I am seeing the dentist on Tuesday.*
 - **Social Plans:** *We are having a party next Saturday.*
 - **Verbs of Movement:** Common with *go, come, leave, arrive* for personal travel.
 - *My parents are arriving tomorrow.*
 - *I am leaving for London tonight.*

2. Present Simple: Future Timetables & Official Schedules

We use the **Present Simple** to talk about the future when the event is part of a fixed schedule, timetable, or program. These events are usually public and outside of our control.

- **Structure:** Subject + verb(s/es) / do/does + not + verb
- **Usage:**
 - **Transport:** *The train leaves at 10:00 PM. / The flight arrives at 6:30 AM.*
 - **Events (Cinema/Theater/Conferences):** *The film starts in ten minutes.*
 - **Institutional Calendars:** *The new school term begins next Monday.*

Summary Table

Context	Tense	Example
Personal Plan	Present Continuous	<i>I am flying to Paris tomorrow.</i> (My ticket is booked).
Public Schedule	Present Simple	<i>The plane flies at 07:00 every day.</i> (Airline schedule).

Practice Exercises

Instruction: Complete the sentences using the correct future form: **Present Continuous** (for personal arrangements) or **Present Simple** (for timetables).

1. Look at the ticket! Our train _____ (leave) at exactly 09:15, so don't be late.
2. I _____ (meet) Susan for coffee tomorrow morning; it is already in my diary.
3. What time _____ the movie _____ (end) tonight? I need to know when to pick you up.
4. We _____ (not/go) to the cinema this Friday because Mark is busy.
5. According to the conference schedule, the keynote speech _____ (start) at 10:00 AM sharp.
6. _____ you _____ (come) to the staff meeting later this afternoon?
7. The library _____ (not/open) until 10:00 AM on Sundays, so we have to wait.
8. My sister _____ (get) married next month! Everything is booked.
9. When _____ the art exhibition _____ (close)? We want to see it before it finishes.
10. Sorry, I can't help you tonight. I _____ (work) late to finish this project.
11. The bus to the airport _____ (not/arrive) until 4:45 PM, according to the app.
12. Where _____ they _____ (stay) when they visit London next week?
13. Hurry up! The show _____ (begin) in five minutes!
14. She _____ (not/have) lunch with us tomorrow; she has a dentist appointment.
15. What time _____ your plane _____ (land)? I will wait for you at Arrivals.

Answer Key

1. **leaves** (Timetable/Transport)
2. **am meeting** (Personal Arrangement)
3. **does ... end** (Timetable/Cinema)
4. **are not going** (Personal Arrangement)
5. **starts** (Timetable/Program)
6. **Are ... coming** (Personal Arrangement/Movement)
7. **does not open** (Timetable/Institution)
8. **is getting** (Personal Arrangement)
9. **does ... close** (Timetable/Public Event)
10. **am working** (Personal Arrangement)
11. **does not arrive** (Timetable/Transport)
12. **are ... staying** (Personal Arrangement)
13. **begins** (Timetable/Theater)
14. **is not having** (Personal Arrangement)
15. **does ... land** (Timetable/Transport)