

Focus: Deciding at the moment of speaking, Offering to help, Promises and agreements, Refusals with 'won't', Asking for suggestions, Offering to do something (Shall I...?), Making group suggestions (Shall we...?), Shall vs. Will in questions, Predicting future events, Expressing beliefs about the future

In English, we use **Will** and **Shall** to talk about the future, but they have different functions depending on the context. We often use them for spontaneous reactions, offers, and predictions.

1. The Future Simple: Will / Won't

We use **will** (short form: 'll) and **will not** (short form: **won't**) + the base verb.

A. Spontaneous Decisions (The Moment of Speaking)

We use *will* when we make a decision **now**, at the moment of speaking. We did not plan this before.

- *Example*: "The phone is ringing." -> "I **will answer** it." (I decided just now).
- *Example*: "It's hot in here." -> "I **will open** the window."

B. Offers, Promises, and Refusals

- **Offers**: "That bag looks heavy. I **will carry** it for you."
- **Promises**: "I **will love** you forever." / "I **won't tell** anyone your secret."
- **Refusals (Won't)**: We use *won't* when someone or something refuses to work or cooperate.
 - *Example*: "The car **won't start**!"

C. Predictions and Beliefs

We use *will* to say what we think, guess, or believe will happen in the future. We often use introductory phrases (Collocations for Uncertainty) like:

- *I think... / I don't think...*
- *I expect...*
- *I'm sure...*
- *I wonder...*
 - *Example*: "I think it **will rain** tomorrow."
 - *Example*: "I'm sure you **will pass** the test."

2. Shall (Suggestions and Offers)

In modern English, we mainly use **Shall** in **questions** with **I** and **We**. It is formal and polite.

A. Asking for Suggestions (Shall we...?)

Used to make a suggestion for a group or ask "What is a good plan?"

- *Example*: "**Shall we go** to the cinema tonight?" (= Let's go to the cinema).
- *Example*: "What **shall we do** for dinner?"

B. Offering to do something (Shall I...?)

Used to offer your own help politely.

- *Example*: "**Shall I help** you with your homework?" (= Do you want me to help you?).
- *Example*: "It's cold. **Shall I close** the door?"

NOTE: In affirmative sentences (declarations), we almost always use **Will**, not **Shall**, even for offers.

- *Right*: I **will** help you.
- *Wrong*: I ~~shall~~ help you. (This sounds very old-fashioned).

Practice

Instruction: Complete the sentences using the correct form of the verb (**will**, **won't**, or **shall**). Pay attention to the type of sentence: Affirmative (+), Negative (-), or Question (?).

Tips:

- For **spontaneous decisions**, **predictions**, and **promises**, use **will**.
- For **offers** (asking "Do you want me to...?"), use **Shall I...?**
- For **suggestions** (asking "Let's...?"), use **Shall we...?**
- For **refusals** or negative predictions, use **won't**.

1. It is very cold in this room. I _____ (turn on) the heating. (+)
2. _____ (we/go) out for dinner tonight, or stay at home? (?)
3. I promise I _____ (not/be) late again. (-)
4. Look at those heavy boxes! _____ (I/carry) one for you? (?)
5. I don't think the exam _____ (be) very difficult. (+)
6. I tried to talk to him, but he _____ (not/listen) to me. (-)
7. "We ran out of milk." — "Really? I _____ (go) and buy some." (+)
8. Where _____ (you/be) next year at this time? (?)
9. I'm sorry, but I _____ (not/have) time to help you today. (-)
10. I expect they _____ (arrive) around 6:00 PM. (+)
11. This computer is broken. It _____ (not/turn on). (-)
12. "I'm bored." — "What _____ (we/do)?" (?)
13. Don't worry about the cost. I _____ (pay) for the tickets. (+)
14. Do you think people _____ (live) on Mars in the future? (?)
15. "The doorbell is ringing." — "Sit down, I _____ (get) it." (+)

Answer Key

1. **will turn on** (Spontaneous decision)
2. **Shall we go** (Suggestion)
3. **won't be** (Promise/Negative)
4. **Shall I carry** (Offer to help)
5. **will be** (Prediction/Belief)
6. **won't listen** (Refusal)
7. **will go** (Spontaneous decision)
8. **will you be** (Prediction about the future)
9. **won't have** (Negative prediction/Refusal of circumstance)
10. **will arrive** (Prediction/Expectation)
11. **won't turn on** (Refusal - inanimate object)
12. **shall we do** (Asking for a suggestion)
13. **will pay** (Offer/Promise)
14. **will live** (Prediction)
15. **will get** (Spontaneous decision)