

Will/shall 1

A

We use **I'll** (= **I will**) when we've just decided to do something. When we say 'I'll do something', we announce our decision:

- Oh, I've left the door open. **I'll go** and shut it.
- 'What would you like to drink?' **I'll have** an orange juice, please.'
- 'Did you phone Lucy?' 'Oh no, I forgot. **I'll phone** her now.'

You cannot use the *present simple* (**I do / I go** etc.) in these sentences:

- I'll go** and shut the door. (*not I go and shut*)

We often use **I think I'll ...** and **I don't think I'll ...** :

- I feel a bit hungry. **I think I'll have** something to eat.
- I don't think I'll go** out tonight. I'm too tired.

In spoken English the negative of **will** is usually **won't** (= **will not**):

- I can see you're busy, so **I won't stay** long.

B

Do *not* use **will** to talk about what you decided before (see Units 19–20):

- I'm going** on holiday next Saturday. (*not I'll go*)
- Are you working** tomorrow? (*not Will you work*)

C

We often use **will** in these situations:

Offering to do something

- That bag looks heavy. **I'll help** you with it. (*not I help*)

Agreeing to do something

- A: Can you give Tim this book?
- B: Sure, **I'll give** it to him when I see him this afternoon.

Promising to do something

- Thanks for lending me the money. **I'll pay** you back on Friday.
- I won't tell** anyone what happened. I promise.

Asking somebody to do something (Will you ... ?)

- Will you** please turn the music down? I'm trying to concentrate.

You can use **won't** to say that somebody refuses to do something:

- I've tried to give her advice, but she **won't listen**.
- The car **won't start**. (= the car 'refuses' to start)



D

Shall I ... ? Shall we ... ?

Shall is used mostly in the questions **shall I ... ? / shall we ... ?**

We use **shall I ... ? / shall we ... ?** to ask somebody's opinion (especially in offers or suggestions):

- Shall I** open the window? (= Do you want me to open the window?)
- I've got no money. What **shall I** do? (= What do you suggest?)
- '**Shall we** go?' 'Just a minute. I'm not ready yet.'
- 'Where **shall we** have lunch?' 'Let's go to Marino's.'

Compare **shall I ... ?** and **will you ... ?**:

- Shall I** shut the door? (= Do you want me to shut it?)
- Will you** shut the door? (= I want you to shut it)

Exercises

21.1 Complete the sentences with **I'll** + a suitable verb.

- I'm too tired to walk home. I think I'll take a taxi.
- 'It's cold in this room.' 'Is it?' on the heating then.'
- 'Bye! Have a nice holiday!' 'Thanks. you a postcard.'
- 'Shall I do the washing-up?' 'No, it's all right. it later.'
- 'I don't know how to shut down this computer.' 'OK, you.'
- 'Would you like tea or coffee?' '..... coffee, please.'
- 'Are you coming with us?' 'No, I think here.'
- Thanks for lending me the money. it back as soon as possible, OK?
- A: I know you're busy, but can you finish this report this afternoon?
B: Well,, but I can't promise.

21.2 Read the situations and write sentences with **I think I'll ...** or **I don't think I'll ...**.

- It's a bit cold. The window is open and you decide to close it. You say:
I think I'll close the window.
- You are feeling tired and it's getting late. You decide to go to bed. You say:
I think
- A friend of yours offers you a lift in his car, but you decide to walk. You say:
Thank you, but
- You were going to have lunch. Now you decide that you don't want to eat anything. You say:
I don't think
- You planned to go swimming. Now you decide that you don't want to go. You say:
.....

21.3 Which is correct? (If necessary, study Units 19–20 first.)

- 'Did you phone Lucy?' 'Oh no, I forgot. +phone / I'll phone her now.' (I'll phone is correct)
- I can't meet you tomorrow. I'm playing / +I'll play tennis. (I'm playing is correct)
- I meet / I'll meet you outside the hotel in half an hour, OK?' 'Yes, that's fine.'
- 'I need some money.' 'OK, I'm lending / I'll lend you some. How much do you need?'
- I'm having / I'll have a party next Saturday. I hope you can come.
- 'Remember to get a newspaper when you go out.' 'OK, I don't forget / I won't forget.'
- What time does your train leave / will your train leave tomorrow?
- I asked Sue what happened, but she doesn't tell / won't tell me.
- 'Are you doing / Will you do anything tomorrow evening?' 'No, I'm free. Why?'
- I don't want to go out alone. Do you come / Will you come with me?

21.4 What do you say in these situations? Write sentences with **shall I ... ?** or **shall we ... ?**

- You and a friend want to do something this evening, but you don't know what.
You ask your friend: What shall we do this evening?
- You try on a jacket in a shop. You are not sure whether to buy it or not.
You ask a friend for advice: it?
- It's Helen's birthday next week. You want to give her a present, but you don't know what.
You ask a friend for advice:
What
- You and a friend are going on holiday together, but you have to decide where.
You ask him/her:
- You and a friend are going out. You have to decide whether to go by car or to walk.
You ask him/her: or
- Your friend wants you to come and see her. You don't know what time to come.
You ask her: