



CLASS IX-X
ENGLISH GRAMMAR
PART II - LESSON 3
THE FUTURE

NOTES

There is no obvious **Future Tense** in English corresponding to the time/tense relation for present and past. Instead there are various possibilities of expressing actions and events of the **Future Time**. The **Future Time** is chiefly expressed by means of:

1. Modal auxiliaries: ‘**Shall**’ or ‘**will**’ with the base forms of verbs express **Future Time**. Traditionally, such constructions have been treated as **Future Tense**.

Examples:

- i. I shall go home in the evening.
- ii. You will see more wonders in the world

2. Semi auxiliaries: They include **be about to, be going to, have to, be supposed to, be + infinitive, be likely to etc.**

Examples:

- i. The play is about to start.

(The verb combination is ‘be + about + infinitive’. It expresses an action on the point of taking place. The Time indicated is Future.)

- ii. I am going to learn computer

(The verb combination is ‘be + going to+ base form’ of a verb. The combination expresses an action of the future.)

- iii. He is to read hard for the coming examination.

(The verb combination is ‘be + infinitive’ form. The combination expresses an action of the future.)

3. Simple Present: The Simple Present can be used to express a future event or action. The Tense form is Present but the Time is Future.

Examples:

- i. The festival begins next Friday.
- ii. The wedding is on Wednesday next.



4. Present Continuous: The Present Continuous tense is also used to express the future time.

Examples:

- i. India is playing in the Commonwealth Games next year.
- ii. The President is coming to Manipur tomorrow.

5. Future Continuous: The verb combination is 'shall/will + be + Present Participle'

- i. Future Continuous is used to show the continuing aspect of the action or event in the future.

Example: This time tomorrow, I shall be reading a book.

- ii. It is also used to express an event or action which is not in progress in the future.

Example:

The Principal will be taking his assistant to the meeting.

6. Future Perfect: The verb combination is 'shall/will + have + Past Participle'. It is used to express a completed action in the future.

Example: I shall have completed it by January.

7. Future Perfect Continuous: The verb combination is 'shall/will + have + been + Present Participle'. It is used to indicate that something will occur in the future and continue for an expected length of time.

Example: By the end of this year, I shall have been teaching for twenty years.