

GRAMMAR · LESSON 08 · B1

On Friday I'm meeting Maya, on Friday *the train leaves* at 8:15.

Future: Arrangements & Schedules — two tenses, both pointing forward

English hides two of its futures inside present-tense grammar. **Present Continuous** for fixed personal arrangements. **Present Simple** for timetables. Learn which belongs where — and why it matters.

🕒 50 min	📅 Arrangements & schedules	📊 CEFR B1	👶 Ages 11-16
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What you'll learn

- Use **Present Continuous** for fixed personal arrangements.
- Use **Present Simple** for schedules, timetables, and programmes.
- Apply the key test: *your plan* (PC) vs *their timetable* (PS).

1 WARM-UP · 4 MIN

What's fixed? What's scheduled?

Two of these talk about plans **you made**. Two are about schedules **someone else** set. Feel the difference before we label anything.

Q1	What are you doing this weekend? Anything planned with friends or family?
Q2	What time does school start tomorrow? Can you change that time?
Q3	Are you travelling somewhere soon? When exactly? Who arranged it?
Q4	When does your favourite show come on? Did you decide that time or did the channel?

2 GRAMMAR FOCUS · 16 MIN

Two present tenses, both pointing forward

You already know these tenses for the present. But both also describe the **future** — each under one condition. **Arrangements** (already fixed with times, places, people) use Present Continuous. **Schedules** (trains, classes, films, shops) use Present Simple.

<p>ARRANGEMENTS</p> <p>am / is / are + verb-ing</p> <p>When: a fixed plan with time, place, or people decided.</p> <p><i>I'm seeing the dentist on Thursday at 4.</i></p> <p>Test: Is it in your diary? → PC.</p>	<p>SCHEDULES</p> <p>base verb (+s)</p> <p>When: on a timetable set by someone else.</p> <p><i>The train leaves at 8:15 tomorrow.</i></p> <p>Test: Can you change it? No → PS.</p>
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□ **One weekend, two tenses — Yuki's diary**

FRI 18:00	<i>I'm meeting</i> Haru at the station <i>(her plan)</i>	FRI 20:30	The film <i>starts</i> at Toho Cinema <i>(their schedule)</i>
SAT 10:00	<i>I'm going</i> to my cousin's house <i>(her plan)</i>	SAT 14:00	The museum <i>closes</i> at five <i>(their schedule)</i>
SUN 09:45	The Shinkansen <i>arrives</i> at 10:21 <i>(schedule)</i>	SUN 13:00	<i>We're having</i> lunch at home <i>(her plan)</i>

↔ **Same activity, two tenses, two meanings**

<p>I'm flying to London on the 15th. <i>My travel plan — I booked it.</i></p> <p>We're playing football on Saturday. <i>My match with my team.</i></p> <p>She's teaching me guitar on Wednesday. <i>Arrangement between us.</i></p>	<p>Flight BA249 leaves at 11:40. <i>Airline's timetable — fixed for everyone.</i></p> <p>The school tournament starts at 10 a.m. <i>Event schedule.</i></p> <p>The guitar class starts at 5 every Wednesday. <i>School's regular timetable.</i></p>
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↳ All four futures together

You already know *will* and *be going to* from Lesson 07. Now you have **four** future forms. Here's the complete split:

will	Instant decision / prediction from opinion <i>I'll help you. I think it'll rain.</i>
going to	General plan / intention; prediction from evidence <i>I'm going to learn guitar. Look at those clouds — it's going to rain.</i>
Pres. Continuous	Fixed arrangement (time + place + people) <i>I'm meeting Maya at 5 in the café.</i>
Pres. Simple	Schedule or timetable (nobody can change) <i>The café closes at 10.</i>

⚠ Three typical B1 mistakes

- ❑ ~~I go to the dentist tomorrow at 4.~~ ❑ **I'm going to the dentist tomorrow at 4.** (Your plan, not a published dentist timetable.)
- ❑ ~~The train is leaving at 8:15.~~ ❑ **The train leaves at 8:15.** (Timetable.)
- ❑ ~~What do you do this weekend?~~ ❑ **What are you doing this weekend?** (You're asking about plans, not routines.)

3

KEY VOCABULARY · 6 MIN

Ten words for plans and timetables

Word	POS	Meaning	Example
arrangement	<i>n</i>	a fixed plan with other people	<i>We made an arrangement to meet on Saturday.</i>
timetable	<i>n</i>	a list of times when things happen	<i>Check the timetable — the bus comes at 7.</i>
appointment	<i>n</i>	a formal meeting booked in advance	<i>I have a dentist appointment on Friday.</i>
to book	<i>v</i>	to reserve in advance	<i>She's booked a flight to Seoul.</i>
to postpone	<i>v</i>	to move to a later time	<i>We're postponing the party to next week.</i>
deadline	<i>n</i>	a final time by which something must be done	<i>The deadline is Monday at noon.</i>
in advance	<i>adv</i>	before the time something happens	<i>Book your ticket two weeks in advance.</i>
rehearsal	<i>n</i>	a practice session before a real performance	<i>We have a rehearsal on Thursday evening.</i>
departure	<i>n</i>	the time or act of leaving	<i>Departure is at 06:45 from platform 3.</i>
to cancel	<i>v</i>	to decide something won't happen	<i>They've cancelled the trip — bad weather.</i>

4

READING · 12 MIN

Her Calendar is Full

THE PULSE · ISSUE 10

FIXED PLANS

Her Calendar is *Full*

Some weekends you just sit down. Others, the whole weekend is written on a fridge magnet three months before it happens. We spent Friday afternoon with Yuki in Tokyo — and four more teens with packed schedules.

Y

Yuki, 16

Tokyo · Japan

"Three arrangements, two schedules, one busy day"

The Shinkansen from Tokyo to Osaka **leaves** at 6:03 a.m., and Yuki **is taking** it this Sunday with her grandmother. She knows the time because the timetable has been on their fridge for three weeks. She knows she **is taking** it because she and her grandmother **are visiting** her great-aunt in Osaka for her eighty-ninth birthday. Notice the difference: the train's departure is a **schedule** — nobody in Yuki's family can change it. The trip is an **arrangement** — they decided it together, and they could still postpone if they had to.

This weekend is unusually busy. Tomorrow, Friday, Yuki's school **finishes** at 3:15 — like every Friday — but this one is different because she **is going** straight to the café near Shinjuku station to meet her friend Haru. They **are watching** a film at 7, although the film itself **starts** at 7:20, so they have time to eat first. The cinema **closes** at eleven. That part isn't their plan — it's just the building's **opening hours**.

On Saturday morning her cousin **is coming** over at ten. Her mother **is cooking** curry for lunch. In the afternoon they **are going** to the new contemporary art museum in Roppongi, which **opens** at 10 and **closes** at 5 on Saturdays — so timing matters. The temporary exhibition **ends** next week, which is exactly why they **are going** this Saturday and not the next.

And Sunday, of course, is Osaka. The train **arrives** at Shin-Osaka at 8:35; from there her aunt **is picking** them up at 8:45. The birthday lunch **starts** at 12 — her great-aunt is very traditional, and she said twelve, so twelve it is. The return train **leaves** at 8:12 p.m. and they **are getting** home around 11. Yuki **is not going** to school on Monday morning — her mother has already written the note.

... FOUR MORE VOICES ...

D

Dan, 15 · Perth · Australia

Solo flight

Dan **is flying** to Sydney alone for the first time next Thursday. The flight **leaves** at 6:10 a.m. and **arrives** at 9:55 a.m. local time. His father **is dropping** him at the airport at 4 a.m. — no negotiation, Dan, you check in two hours early. His grandmother **is waiting** for him in the arrivals hall. "The plane **doesn't wait** for anyone," his father said. "Your grandmother will. So be on it."

A Amara, 13 · Accra · Ghana

School show

Amara's school **is putting on** a musical next month. Rehearsals **run** every Monday and Wednesday from 4 to 6 — that's the drama club's regular schedule. Amara **is playing** the lead. Her parents **are coming** to both nights, and her older brother **is flying** in from Kumasi just for the Saturday show. "The show **starts** at seven sharp," she says. "My family **is sitting** in row three."

L Leo, 16 · São Paulo · Brazil

Match day

The derby match **kicks off** at 16:00 this Sunday — that's fixed by the league, and nobody argues with the league. Leo **is going** with his father and his uncle. His uncle **is picking** them up at 13:30 because the traffic around the stadium is always bad. The gates **open** at two. "We **are eating** pizza before the match," Leo says, "not during. My uncle has rules."

S Sofi, 14 · Lviv · Ukraine

Ballet audition

Sofi's ballet class **meets** three times a week: Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday. Regular schedule. But next Wednesday she **is going** to an extra session — her teacher **is preparing** six students for an audition. The audition itself **takes place** on December 12th at the National Ballet School; the doors **open** at 9, and each candidate **gets** exactly eight minutes. Sofi **is practising** forty minutes a day. "Eight minutes. That's my life in eight minutes."

Present Continuous
(arrangement)

Present Simple
(schedule)

Routine

5

PRACTICE · 8 MIN

8 quick choices

Choose the correct option (A, B or C). Answers on the last page.

1	— What ___ you ___ on Saturday evening? — I'm going to the theatre with Marco. · A) do / do B) are / doing C) will / do
2	The coach to Edinburgh ___ at 7:45 every morning. · A) is leaving B) leaves C) is going to leave
3	I ___ my grandparents next weekend. We've already bought the train tickets. · A) am visiting B) visit C) will visit
4	The new Pixar film ___ on May 17th in cinemas across the country. · A) is opening B) will open C) opens
5	— What time ___ the match ___ on Sunday? — Kick-off is at 4. · A) is / starting B) does / start C) will / start
6	Sorry, I can't come on Friday. I ___ to the dentist at 4. · A) am going B) go C) will go
7	The plane ___ at 22:40. We need to be at the airport by 20:30. · A) is landing B) will land C) lands
8	We ___ Maria at the airport tonight. She's landing from Madrid at 9. · A) are meeting B) meet C) will meet

6

SPEAKING · 5 MIN

Your calendar, your timetable

Work with a partner. Use **Present Continuous** for your personal plans and **Present Simple** for schedules. Use both in every answer.

- Q 1** | What are you doing this Saturday evening? Where? With whom?
- Q 2** | What time does school start and finish in your country? Is it the same every day?
- Q 3** | Are you travelling anywhere in the next two months? When exactly?
- Q 4** | When do the summer holidays start in your school? Can anyone change that date?
- Q 5** | What is one event (concert, match, film, party) you're going to soon? What time does it start?

Model dialogue

Ana:	So, what <i>are you doing</i> tomorrow?
Ben:	I <i>'m going</i> to a concert. Coldplay, Wembley.
Ana:	Wait, what? What time <i>does it start</i> ?
Ben:	The doors <i>open</i> at six, the support act <i>starts</i> at seven, Coldplay <i>come on</i> at eight.
Ana:	Are you going alone?
Ben:	No, I <i>'m meeting</i> Jenna and Sam at the tube station at five.

7 WRITING · 10 MIN
"My packed weekend"

Write a short message (**80 to 100 words**) to a friend. Describe **three arrangements** with Present Continuous and **two schedule times** with Present Simple — for example, when a film starts, when a shop closes, when a train leaves.

Include: 3+ Present Continuous verbs 2+ Present Simple times specific times 80-100 words

Word count: _____ / 80-100

8

COMPREHENSION QUIZ · 6 MIN

10 questions — let's see what stuck

Circle the best option (A, B, C or D) for each question.

1	The London coach ___ at 8:30 every morning except Sunday. · A) is leaving B) leaves C) will leave D) is going to leave
2	I can't come for lunch on Friday — I ___ my aunt at the hospital. · A) visit B) will visit C) am visiting D) visits
3	What time ___ the new exhibition ___ at the National Gallery? · A) is / opening B) does / open C) will / open D) is / going to open
4	We ___ a photo session tomorrow at 10. The photographer confirmed last week. · A) have B) are having C) will have D) had
5	— When ___ your school ___ for the summer? — On the 21st of June. It's always the same day. · A) is / closing B) will / close C) does / close D) is / going to close
6	Don't call me between 4 and 6 on Thursday — I ___ a driving lesson. · A) have B) am having C) will have D) will be having
7	The train to Bordeaux ___ from platform 9 in twelve minutes! · A) is leaving B) leaves C) will leave D) goes
8	Rania ___ me her dress for the party on Saturday. She promised. · A) lends B) is lending C) will lend D) is going to lend
9	The marathon ___ in front of the cathedral at 7 a.m. sharp. · A) is starting B) will start C) starts D) is going to start
10	What ___ you ___ this weekend? Anything exciting? · A) do / do B) are / doing C) will / do D) did / do



ANSWER KEYS

Check your answers**Practice · Part 5**

1	B — are / doing	<i>Fixed plan at a specific time → PC.</i>
2	B — leaves	<i>Regular coach timetable → PS.</i>
3	A — am visiting	<i>Tickets already bought = fixed arrangement → PC.</i>
4	C — opens	<i>Scheduled release date → PS.</i>
5	B — does / start	<i>Match schedule set by the league → PS.</i>
6	A — am going	<i>Personal appointment fixed → PC.</i>
7	C — lands	<i>Flight timetable → PS.</i>
8	A — are meeting	<i>Arrangement with a specific person at a specific time → PC.</i>

Quiz · Part 8

1	B — leaves	<i>Regular timetable → PS.</i>
2	C — am visiting	<i>Personal arrangement → PC.</i>
3	B — does / open	<i>Museum schedule → PS.</i>
4	B — are having	<i>Fixed personal arrangement → PC.</i>
5	C — does / close	<i>School timetable → PS.</i>
6	B — am having	<i>Specific personal appointment → PC.</i>
7	B — leaves	<i>Timetable language; announcements use PS.</i>
8	B — is lending	<i>Plan between two people → PC.</i>
9	C — starts	<i>Event schedule → PS.</i>
10	B — are / doing	<i>Question about plans for a specific future period → PC.</i>

Great work finishing Lesson 08! You now have four ways to talk about the future in English: *will*, *be going to*, *Present Continuous*, *Present Simple*. In **Lesson 09**, we add two more tools — **Future Continuous** ("this time tomorrow I'll be sleeping") and **Future Perfect** ("by next year I'll have finished").