

# Will/shall 1

A

We use I'll (= I will) when we decide to do something at the time of speaking:

- 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 have already decided, or arranged to do (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 stereo 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 go this evening?

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)

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

- 1 I'm too tired to walk home. I think I'll take a taxi.
- 2 'It's cold in this room.' 'Is it?' ..... on the heating then.'
- 3 A: We haven't got any milk.  
B: Oh, I forgot to buy some. .... and get some now.
- 4 'Shall I do the washing-up?' 'No, it's all right. .... it later.'
- 5 'I don't know how to use this computer.' 'OK, ..... you.'
- 6 'Would you like tea or coffee?' '..... coffee, please.'
- 7 'Goodbye! Have a nice holiday.' 'Thanks. .... you a postcard.'
- 8 Thanks for letting me borrow your camera. .... it back to you on Monday, OK?
- 9 'Are you coming with us?' 'No, I think ..... here.'

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

- 1 It's a bit cold. The window is open and you decide to close it. You say:  
I think I'll close the window.
- 2 You are feeling tired and it's getting late. You decide to go to bed. You say:  
I think .....
- 3 A friend of yours offers you a lift in his car, but you decide to walk. You say:  
Thank you, but .....
- 4 You arranged to play tennis today. Now you decide that you don't want to play. You say:  
I don't think .....
- 5 You were going 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.)

- 1 'Did you phone Lucy?' 'Oh no, I forgot. ~~I phone~~ / I'll phone her now.' (I'll phone is correct)
- 2 I can't meet you tomorrow. I'm playing / I'll play tennis. (I'm playing is correct)
- 3 'I meet / I'll meet you outside the hotel in half an hour, OK?' 'Yes, that's fine.'
- 4 'I need some money.' 'OK, I'm lending / I'll lend you some. How much do you need?'
- 5 I'm having / I'll have a party next Saturday. I hope you can come.
- 6 'Remember to get a newspaper when you go out.' 'OK. I don't forget / I won't forget.'
- 7 What time does your train leave / will your train leave tomorrow?
- 8 I asked Sue what happened, but she doesn't tell / won't tell me.
- 9 'Are you doing / Will you do anything tomorrow evening?' 'No, I'm free. Why?'
- 10 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 ... ?

- 1 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? .....
- 2 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?
- 3 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 .....
- 4 You and a friend are going on holiday together, but you haven't decided where. You ask him/her. ....
- 5 You and a friend are going out. You haven't decided whether to go by car or to walk. You ask him/her. .... or .....
- 6 Your friend wants you to phone later. You don't know what time to phone. You ask him/her. ....