

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.

- 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.'
- A: We haven't got any milk.
B: Oh, I forgot to buy some. and get some now.
- 'Shall I do the washing-up?' 'No, it's all right. it later.'
- 'I don't know how to use this computer.' 'OK, you.'
- 'Would you like tea or coffee?' '..... coffee, please.'
- 'Goodbye! Have a nice holiday.' 'Thanks, you a postcard.'
- Thanks for letting me borrow your camera. it back to you on Monday, OK?
- '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

- 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 arranged to play tennis today. Now you decide that you don't want to play. You say:
I don't think
- 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.)

- 'Did you phone Lucy?' 'Oh no, I forgot. I 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 haven't decided where.
You ask him/her.
- You and a friend are going out. You haven't decided whether to go by car or to walk. You ask him/her. or
- Your friend wants you to phone later. You don't know what time to phone. You ask him/her.
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