

Lesson Seven

Shall, Will, Who, What

Aims

The aims of this lesson are to enable you to use

- the future expressed by *shall* and *will*
- whose? what? which? (*interrogative adjectives*)
- who? whose? what? which? (*interrogative pronouns*)

Context

In this lesson, we will work with a number of small words, most beginning with *w*, which have different functions in different situations. How do you work out which word to use? As ever, practice makes a big difference.

The Future

Now we come to the easiest of the tenses, which is not the Present; this is the Future, the tense that expresses what will happen.

It has one slight problem: sometimes instead of *will* we can use *shall*, and there is no very clear indication of when one is used rather than the other.

On the whole this is how *shall* and *will* are used; we are using *to go* as the example:

1 I shall go	1 we shall go
2 you will go	2 you will go
3 he, she will go	3 they will go

Interestingly, you can reverse the use of *shall* and *will* with the following results:

If you say I **will** go, this makes the verb more emphatic and the speaker usually stresses the verb will.

Similarly he **shall** go is more emphatic than he **will** go.

Negatives

This again presents some problems, and brings in the *apostrophe* mentioned in the last Lesson.

shall shan't; will won't → →

Using the Apostrophe

Nearly always *shall* and *will* are shortened by the use of the apostrophe, and you always say in the shortened form: e.g. **I'll go, he'll go** and so on regardless of whether the positive is *shall* or *will*. Typical English inconsistency; we always suit our convenience rather than keep to fixed rules. This is the beauty - and difficulty - of English!

Questions

Questions are quite easy as all you need to do is reverse the positive form: e.g. I shall shall I? you will will you? → →

(N.b. the *apostrophe* is only used in negative questions...)
E.g. won't I? shan't I? etc.

The Continuous Future


Most English verbs have continuous forms, and the *Future* is no exception. The *continuous form* is always shown by the ending *ing*.

Examples

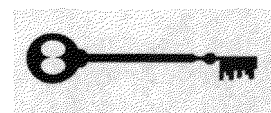
I will go I will be going → (I'll be going)
I will have I will be having → (I'll be having) etc

The Negative is: I shan't be going, (shan't I be going?) I shan't be having, (shan't I be having?) and so on. If you look, there is a consistency about all this which makes these continuous forms far easier to learn.

And their great advantage is to add an extra dimension to verbs, and is yet another example of the flexibility and plasticity of English. You can have an almost infinite variety of shades of meaning especially in our verbs.

Activity 1	Put the following sentences into the Future, Use the continuous form if that is used in the Present:
	a) I am going to the pictures this evening b) Do you have my ticket? No, Peter has it. c) We are not at all sure you are right! (Put only the first verb into the future) d) Are you coming out now? I want to see you. e) These pictures aren't very good. I can (am able to) do better myself!

Key



Activity One

- a) I shall be going to the pictures this evening
- b) Will you have my ticket? No, Peter will have it.
- c) We shall not be at all sure you are right.
- d) Will you be coming out now? I shall want to see you.
- e) These pictures won't be very good. I shall (I'll) be able to do better myself.

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