

TENSES EXPRESSING FUTURE MEANING

Veronica BALTAG, lector superior

Rezumat

Studierea gramaticii limbii engleze este foarte importantă. Toate aspectele sunt importante, dar gramatica este important să o înțelegi, deoarece în limba română nu avem unele timpuri pe care le avem în limba engleză. Pentru a vorbi corect limba engleză este important să știi gramatica foarte bine.

For many years, „learning the grammar” has assumed a central a central role in students' expectations about what learning a language involves. Nowadays, however there are many other views about what learners need to learn and how best to go about teaching it.

There are several ways of expressing future time in English.

Present Continuous is the most common way to talk about arrangements fixed plans for future, when the time and place have been decided.

Ann: Are you doing anything this evening?

Nick: I'm going to an ice hockey match.

The tigers are playing the Kings.

I bought my ticket yesterday.

We use Present Continuous for what someone has arranged to do in the future [1, p. 150].

Here Nick has arranged to go to the match. He has already bought a ticket. He has a plan to do something.

- Kate is going to the dentist on Friday. (She has an appointment with a dentist).
- They are going to a concert tomorrow evening. (They have tickets for the concert).
- Are you meeting John this evening? (Have you and John arranged to meet?).
- What are you doing at the weekend?

Present Continuous emphasizes that you have made the arrangements.

- We are getting married on July 12th. (They have booked the church).

To be going to is the most common way to express future plans and intentions, and to imply that a decision has been made.

- I'm going to have my hair cut tomorrow.
- She is going to visit her parents.

You can say something is going to happen when it is clear now that it is sure to happen:

- Look at the sky! It's going to rain.(There are some black clouds in the sky).
- Oh dear! It's 10 o'clock and I'm not ready.
- I'm going to be late. (10 o'clock and not ready-late).
- Oh, I feel terrible. I think I'm going to be sick. (I feel terrible now).

WE use going to when we say what we think will happen. Usually there is something in the present situation that makes the speaker sure about what will happen.

e. g. - The man can't see where he is going. There is a hole in front of him.

- He is going to fall into the hole.

Here the speaker is saying what he thinks will happen. Of course he doesn't mean that the man intends to fall into the hole.

WE prefer to use the present continuous (i am doing) when we say what someone arranged to do - for example, arranged to meet someone ,arranged to travel somewhere [2, p. 88].

In most cases you can use either going to or present continuous, but there is a subtle change of emphasis. The present continuous emphasizes that a time and place to do something has been decided; going to emphasize the intention [3, p. 58]:

- e. g. - I'm meeting Cathy.(=We have arranged to meet).

e. g. - I'm going to meet Cathy. (It's my intention, but arrangements may or may not have been made).

We do not use present continuous when it is clear that something is just an intention, not something that has been arranged.

e. g. - What time are you meeting Ann? (or 'are you going to meet').

e. g. - I'm travelling to Scotland on Monday. (or 'I'm going to travel').

THE future continuous can often be used instead of present continuous to refer to future arrangements.

We sometimes use it to emphasize that we are talking about something that will happen anyway rather than something we arranged [4, p. 10].

e. g. - I'm seeing Sarah tomorrow. (I have arranged it).

e. g. - I'll be seeing Sarah at the party tomorrow. (=It will happen anyway, but i didn't arrange it).

It is often used to make polite enquiries about arrangements,

e. g. Will you be meeting us at the airport?

WE can also use the present simple to talk about future events which are part of a timetable or a regular schedule.

e. g. 1. My sister is due to arrive at 7.30. Can you meet her at the station?

2. My sister is about to have a baby, so i need to keep my mobile switched on.

It is believed that the chancellor is on the point of resigning.

3. It has been announced that the Prime Minister is to visit Moldova next week.

Be due to - infinitive can be used to say that something is arranged or expected [5, p. 130].

A. We also use due to on its own to mean 'expected', e.g. The next train is due in five minutes.

B. We use **be about to-infinitive** to say that something is going to happen very soon.

C. We can also use **be on the point of-gerund** with similar meaning, but this is slightly more formal and implies something is more imminent.

D. We can use **be-to-infinitive** in a formal style to talk about official plans and arrangements.

Bibliography

1. *Advanced English grammar*, Oxford.
2. Betty, Schramper Azar, *Understanding and Using. English Grammar*.
3. Bygate, M. , Tonkyn, A., & Williams, E., (Eds), *Grammar and the language teacher*, Hemel Hempstead, Prentice Hall, England 1994.
4. *English Grammar in Use*, Cambridge University Press.
5. *New English File*.
6. Michael, Swan, *Practical English Usage*.
7. Thompson and Martinet, *Practical English Grammar in Use*.