

Unit 31: WILL AND SHALL

Will and **shall** are modal verbs. Unit 27 shows you how to make correct sentences with them. This unit shows you when to use them. Notice that we use **shall** only for 1st person (Unit 2); **-‘ll** is the short form for both verbs.

USE

EXAMPLES

1 Prediction

a for the future

We **shall** all retire one day.
Do you think it **will be** busy tomorrow?
The manager **will be** writing to you soon.
I’**ll be** phoning him tonight.

NOTICE: ALSO **be going to**, present simple, present continuous: Unit 41 shows you the differences between them

b for now

Don’t phone now! They’**ll** probably **be having** lunch. They usually have lunch at this time.

c past in the future

By this time tomorrow, I’**ll have finished** all my shifts.

2 Intention

a offering

He’s next door. Just a minute and I’**ll get** him for you.
If you think it’s a good idea, I’**ll phone** him.
Shall I help you with that?

NOTICE: ALSO **can** (Unit 28) **would** (Unit 32). Use **shall** only in questions.

b asking for help

Will you **mail** this for me?
What **shall I say** to her?

NOTICE: **could** (Unit 29) is more polite

- c** **refusing** The cash register **won't work**. (= **will not**)
He **won't tell** me the answer.
- d** **promises and threats** We'**ll** never **forget** your hard work and dedication to the company.
I'**ll fire** you if you do that again.
- e** **making decisions** I think I'**ll try on** this purple skirt.
I'**ll have** this purple skirt, please.

NOTICE: do NOT use *be going to* (Unit 37)