

UNIT 4 Present tenses (I am doing / I do) with a future meaning

- a) *Present continuous* with a future meaning
Study this example situation:

SUN	THURS
MON TENNIS 2pm	FRI DINNER with ANN 8pm
TUES DENTIST 10.10	SAT
WED	

This is Tom's diary for next week.

He is **playing** tennis on Monday afternoon.
He is **going** to the dentist on Tuesday morning.
He is **having** dinner with Ann on Friday.

In all these examples, Tom has already decided and arranged to do these things.

When you are talking about what you have already arranged to do, use the present continuous (*I am doing*). Do *not* use the present simple (*I do*).

- A: What are you **doing** tomorrow evening? (*not* 'what do you do')
- B: I'm **going** to the theatre. (*not* 'I go')
- A: Are you **playing** football tomorrow?
- B: Yes, but Tom **isn't playing**. He has hurt his leg.
- A: Ann **is coming** tomorrow.
- B: Oh, is she? What time is she **arriving**?
- A: At 10.15.
- B: Are you **meeting** her at the station?
- A: I can't. I'm **working** tomorrow morning.

It is also possible to use **going to (do)** in these sentences:

- What **are you going to do** tomorrow evening?
- Tom **is going to play** tennis on Monday afternoon.

But the present continuous is usually more natural when you are talking about arrangements. See also Unit 5.

Do *not* use **will** to talk about what you have arranged to do:

- What **are you doing** this evening? (*not* 'what will you do')
- Alex **is getting** married next month. (*not* 'Alex will get')

- b) *Present simple* with a future meaning

We use the present simple when we are talking about timetables, programmes etc. (for example, for public transport, cinemas):

- What time **does** the film **begin**?
- The train **leaves** Plymouth at 10.30 and **arrives** in London at 13.45.
- The football match **starts** at 8 o'clock.
- Tomorrow **is** Wednesday.

But we do not normally use the present simple for personal arrangements:

- What time **are you meeting** Ann? (*not* 'do you meet')

UNIT 4 Exercises

4.1 A friend of yours is planning to go on holiday very soon. You ask him about his plans. Use the words in brackets to make your questions.

Example: (where / go?) Where are you going?

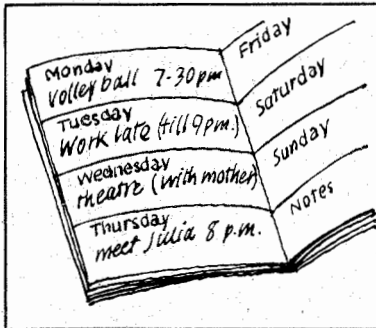
- 1 (how long / stay?)
- 2 (when / leave?)
- 3 (go / alone?)
- 4 (go / by car?)
- 5 (where / stay?)

4.2 Ann is going on holiday. You have to write sentences about her holiday plans. Use the words in brackets to write your sentences.

Example: (go / Scotland) She is going to Scotland.

- 1 (leave / next Friday) She
- 2 (stay / in Scotland for two weeks)
- 3 (go / with a friend of hers)
- 4 (stay / in a hotel) They
- 5 (go / by train)

4.3 Tom wants you to visit him but you are very busy. Look at your diary for the next few days and explain to him why you can't come.



Tom: Can you come on Monday evening?
 You: Sorry, I'd love to but I'm playing volleyball.
 Tom: What about Tuesday evening then?
 You: I can't I'm afraid. I (1).....
 Tom: Well, what are you doing on Wednesday evening?
 You: (2).....
 Tom: I see. Well, are you free on Thursday evening?
 You: I'm afraid not. (3).....

4.4 Put the verb into the most suitable form, present continuous (I am doing) or present simple (I do).

Examples: We are going (go) to the theatre this evening.
Does the film begin (the film / begin) at 3.30 or 4.30?

- 1 We (have) a party next Saturday. Would you like to come?
- 2 I (not/go) away for my holidays next month because I haven't got enough money. (you/go) away?
- 3 The concert this evening (start) at 7.30.
- 4 George, is it true that you (get) married next week?
- 5 The art exhibition (open) on 3 May and (finish) on 15 July.
- 6 What time (the next train / leave)?
- 7 Ann, we (go) to town. (you/come) with us?