

Beginner

The Use of Will and Shall

RULES AND EXAMPLES

1. We use **I'll (I will)** when we decide to do something at the time of speaking:

Examples:

1. Oh, I've left the door open. **I'll go** and shut it.
2. 'What would you like to drink?' '**I'll have** an orange juice, please.'
3. 'Did you phone Lucy?' 'Oh no, I forgot. **I'll phone** her now.'

Note: You cannot use the present simple (I do / I go etc) in these sentences.

Example: **I'll go** and shut the door. (not I go and shut the door.)

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1. **I'm going** on holiday next Saturday. (**not** I'll go).
2. **Are you working** tomorrow? (**not** Will you work...)

3. We often use **will** in these situations:

a) Offering to do something

Example: That bag looks heavy. **I'll help** you with it. (**not** I help)

b) Agreeing to do something

Example: A: Can you give Tim this book?

B: Sure, **I'll give** it to him when I see him this afternoon.

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c) Promising to do something

Example:

Thanks for lending me the money. I'll pay you back on Friday.

I won't tell anyone what happened. I promise.

d) Asking somebody to do something (**Will you...?**)

Example:

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:

Example: I've tried to give her advice, but she **won't listen**.

The car **won't start**. (= the car 'refuses' to start)

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in offers or suggestions):

Examples:

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 ...?**:

Examples: **Shall I** shut the door? (= Do you want me to shut it?)

Will you shut the door? (= I want you to shut it?)