

Unit 6

Will (1)

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

- Oh, I've left the door open. I'll go and shut it.
- 'What would you like to drink?' 'I'll have a lemonade, please.'
- Did you phone Ann? 'Oh no, I forgot. I'll do it now.'
- I'm too tired to walk home. I think I'll get a taxi.

You cannot use the present simple (I do) in these sentences.

I'll go and shut it. (not 'I go and shut it.')

Do not use **will** to say what someone has already decided to do or arranged to do:

- I can't meet you tomorrow because my parents are coming to see me.
(not 'my parents will come')

The negative of **will** is **won't** (or **will not**):

- Receptionist: I'm afraid Mr Wood can't see you until 4 o'clock.
You: Oh, in that case I won't wait.
You: Oh, in that case I won't wait.

We often use **I think I'll ...** or **I don't think I'll ...** when we decide to do something:

- I think I'll stay at home this evening.
- I don't think I'll go out tonight. I'm too tired.

b We often use **will** in these situations:

Offering to do something:

- That bag looks heavy. I'll help you with it. (not 'I help')
- 'I need some money.' 'Don't worry. I'll lend you some.'

Agreeing or refusing to do something:

- A: You know my bag? Can I have it back?
B: Of course. I'll bring it back this afternoon. (not 'I bring')
- I've asked John to help me but he won't.
The car won't start. (= the car 'refuses' to start)

Promising to do something:

- Thank you for lending me the money. I'll pay you back on Friday.
(not 'I pay')
- I won't tell Tom what you said. I promise.
- I promise I'll phone you as soon as I arrive.

Asking someone to do something (Will you ...?):

- Will you shut the door, please?
- Will you please be quiet? I'm trying to concentrate.

For **will** see also **Unit 7**. For **will** and **going to** see **Unit 8**.