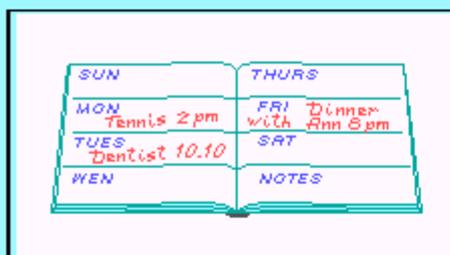


## Unit 4

### 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 2 pm	FRI Dinner with Ann 8 pm
TUES Dentist 10.10	SAT
WEN	NOTES

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**.

- **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')