

Will

Task . Look through these examples of the use of ‘will’ contrasted with other forms. Why is ‘will’ used? What does it mean?

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| 1. It will never end. | It never ends. |
| 2. Don't worry. He'll make it. | He might make it.
He should make it. |
| 3. I'll do it for you. | Would you like me to help you?
Shall I help you? |
| 4. A: Someone called you last night.
B: That will have been Jack. | That was Jack.
That might have been Jack. |
| 5. I'll be lying on a beach enjoying myself
this time next week. | I'm lying on a beach enjoying myself.
I might be lying on a beach enjoying
myself this time next week. |
| 6. Another hangover? Well if you will insist on drinking 10 pints, what do you expect?
Another hangover? You drink too much. What do you expect? | |
| 7. I'll be back. | I might be back. |
| 8. I'll have heard about my application by the end of the week.
I hope to have heard about my application by the end of the week. | |
| 9. He will be forgotten soon. | He might soon be forgotten. |
| 10. I will die. | I'm dying.
I'm going to die. |
| 11. I'll do the dishes. | I will do the dishes! |
| 12. I'll be in London on Tuesday. | I'm in London on Tuesday.
I'm going to London on Tuesday. |
| 13. I think it'll rain today. | It's going to rain today. |
| 14. If you will wait here, I'll see if she's free to see you.
If you would wait here, I'll see if she's free to see you.
If you wait here, I'll see if she's free to see you. | |

And some authentic examples from the British National Corpus:

15. Next summer they will be much more prepared. (AAE 154)
16. Of course no harm will come to him. (AMB 2170)
17. He will deny it. (FPH 1714)
18. Those schools will then be in the fortunate position of being able to pick and choose between applicants. (HHW 11316)
19. Before these meetings of the mothers, there will have been a party at the home of the groom. (CDX 3035)
20. Obvious, perhaps, but it would be a serious mistake to think that the lessons will have been learnt by the next bull market. (CBT 2154)
20. Chairman Garry Gibson said: 'As long as there is an outside chance, we will go for it.' (K4T 3272)

Grammar Ideas

Key

1. It will never end. *Prediction* It never ends. *Fact*
2. Don't worry. He'll make it. *Prediction* He might make it. *Less sure*
He should make it. *Slightly more sure*
3. I'll do it for you. *Firm offer* Would you like me to help you?
Offer - formal
Shall I help you? *Offer*
4. A: Someone called you last night.
B: That will have been Jack. *Sure* That was Jack. *fact*
That might have been Jack. *Less sure*
5. I'll be lying on a beach enjoying myself
this time next week. *Predicting activity* I'm lying on a beach enjoying myself. *fact*
I might be lying on a beach enjoying
myself this time next week. *Less sure*
6. Another hangover? Well if you will insist on drinking 10 pints, what do you expect?
Volition: you choose, so it's your fault
Another hangover? You drink too much. What do you expect? *Fact*
7. I'll be back. *Sure prediction* I might be back. *Less sure*
8. I'll have heard about my application by the end of the week. *Sure prediction*
I hope to have heard about my application by the end of the week. *Less sure*
9. He will be forgotten soon. *Sure prediction* He might soon be forgotten. *Less sure*
10. I will die. *Prediction* I'm dying. *'Journey'*
I'm going to die
Prediction based on events already in progress
11. I'll do the dishes. *Offer* I **will** do the dishes! *Emphasis: I insist*
12. I'll be in London on Tuesday. *Prediction* I'm in London on Tuesday. *Fact*
I'm going to London on Tuesday.
Plan already in progress
13. I think it'll rain today. *Subjective prediction* It's going to rain today. *Objective prediction*
14. If you will wait here, I'll see if she's free to see you. *Formal distance*
If you would wait here, I'll see if she's free to see you. *Extreme formal distance*
If you wait here, I'll see if she's free to see you. *Less formal but still polite*
15. Next summer they will be much more prepared. (AAE 154) *Prediction*
16. Of course no harm will come to him. (AMB 2170) *Prediction*
17. He will deny it. (FPH 1714) *Prediction*
18. Those schools will then be in the fortunate position of being able to pick and choose between applicants. (HHW 11316) *Prediction*
19. Before these meetings of the mothers, there will have been a party at the home of the groom. (CDX 3035) *Prediction*
20. Obvious, perhaps, but it would be a serious mistake to think that the lessons will have been learnt by the next bull market. (CBT 2154) *predicted completion (of lesson learnt)*
20. Chairman Garry Gibson said: 'As long as there is an outside chance, we will go for it.' (K4T 3272) *assertion/prediction*