

Xmas and New Year future tenses review

Ask and answer these questions in groups of two or three:

1. What are your plans for Xmas and New Year?
2. What are your plans and predictions for your next 12 months?
3. How do you imagine your life this time next year?
4. What Xmas shopping have you done or are you planning to do? Where are the best places to buy those things?
5. What's the weather forecast for where you will be over the holidays?
6. What food and drink do you think you will have over the holiday season?

Match these answers to the questions above:

- A) I'm taking the bullet train this evening.
- B) I'm going to buy my boyfriend something nice this year.
- C) I'm going to leave work early on Xmas day.
- D) I'll help you find it online if you like.
- E) According to today's newspaper, it's going to rain.
- F) My family will probably buy a cream cake as usual.
- G) I'll probably be living in a different city.
- H) I'm confident that I will have improved my English a lot by then.
- I) I'm taking my girlfriend to a romantic restaurant for dinner.

Which future tenses are used in the answers above and why are those tenses used?

Match these meanings to the tenses above.

- i. This tense is used to speak about future arrangements (something you have fixed with someone else, e.g. an appointment or date).
- ii. This tense is used for plans (things you have decided to do) and predictions with present evidence (e.g. what you think about the future based on what you can see).
- iii. This tense is used for predictions without present evidence (e.g. your imagination about the future) and spontaneous decisions (things you are deciding as you speak, e.g. offering to help someone).
- iv. This tense is used to speak about things in progress at a point in time in the future.
- v. This tense is used to talk about things achieved or finished by a certain point in time in the future.

Suggested answers

- A) I'm taking the bullet train this evening. (1)
 - B) I'm going to buy my boyfriend something nice this year. (4)
 - C) I'm going to leave work early on Xmas day. (1)
 - D) I'll help you find it online if you like. (4)
 - E) According to today's newspaper, it's going to rain. (5)
 - F) My family will probably buy a cream cake as usual. (6)
 - G) I'll probably be living in a different city. (3)
 - H) I'm confident that I will have improved my English a lot by then. (2/ 3)
 - I) I'm taking my girlfriend to a romantic restaurant for dinner. (1)
-
- i. This tense is used to speak about future arrangements (something you have fixed with someone else, e.g. an appointment or date). – Present Continuous (a/ i)
 - ii. This tense is used for plans (things you have decided to do) and predictions with present evidence (e.g. what you think about the future based on what you can see) – Going to (b/ c/ e)
 - iii. This tense is used for predictions without present evidence (e.g. your imagination about the future) and spontaneous decisions (things you are deciding as you speak, e.g. offering to help someone) – Future with will/ Future simple (d/ f, plus g and h)
 - iv. This tense is used to speak about things in progress at a point in time in the future. – Future continuous (g)
 - v. This tense is used to talk about things achieved or finished by a certain point in time in the future. – Future perfect (h)