

Business future discuss and agree

Try to find future events, feelings about the future and predictions about the future world which you share, using subjects, future forms, actions and/ or times like these:

Subjects	Future forms	Actions	Future times
accountants	'm/ 's/ are about to	accelerate	after this class
activists	'm/ 's/ are due to	acquire/ get	in an hour
banks/ lenders	have arranged to	adapt/ change	later (today)
bureaucrats	am/ is/ are ...ing	add	this evening
(the) CEO(s)	have decided to	adopt	tonight
(my/ a) colleague(s)	going to	avoid	at... (o'clock) (today)
(my/ a) competitor(s)	planning to	be ...ed by	tomorrow morning
consultants	plan to	borrow – lend	this time tomorrow
consumers	thinking about	buy/ purchase	tomorrow afternoon
(white collar) criminals	intend to	cancel	tomorrow evening
(my/ a) customer(s)	'll be...ing	continue	tomorrow night
entrepreneurs	'll have + PP	create	the day after tomorrow
executives/ directors	'll (definitely)	cut/ decrease	in three days
female...	must	disappear	within 5 (working) days
(local) governments	'll almost certainly	disrupt	on Saturday
graduates	(very) likely to	do (more/ less)	on ...day
I	'll probably	expand/ grow	by the end of this week
innovators	may well	gain – lose	this time next week
inventors	might well	get rid of/ scrap	on Friday next week
investors	may/ might	go bankrupt	in two weeks
minorities	could possibly	improve	next month
my boss	probably won't	influence	this winter
my boss and I	could conceivably	invent	in December (this year)
my department	(definitely) won't	invest in	next year
my division	expecting	(re)launch	this time next year
my section	looking forward to	merge with...	next summer
my sector	dreading	quit/ stop	the year after next
older...	want to	recover/ pick up	in the near future
regulators	would like to	retire	before I retire
shareholders	would love to	reverse	in 2050
social enterprises	would	save	by 2050
(permanent) staff	hope	shrink	in 20...
tax authorities	wish	slow down	by 21...
tax havens		specialise	for a long time
temp staff		spend	in the distant future
the ... economy		start	someday/ one day
the ... sector		suffer from	eventually
trade associations		transform	never
(my/ a) vendor(s)		try/ attempt	after...
(manual) workers			in...
young...			within...
Me too./ So... I./ Neither... I./ I think so too.		Really? I.../ That's... but I...	

Brainstorming stage

First of all with no help, write as many different suitable things as you can in each column below.

Future verb forms/ Future tenses	Future times (with prepositions)

Compare your answers with the previous page, then share any extra ideas you had.

What are the differences between the different forms above?

Differences between future sentences presentation

The expressions on the same line below are at least slightly different from each other. With a partner, try to explain the differences in meaning.

Useful language for explaining differences

“They are totally/ almost totally/ very/ quite/ not very different”

“They are almost the same/ very similar/ quite similar, but...”

“..., whereas/ while/ whilst...”

“... In (complete) contrast,...”

“..., but...”

Differences between future verb forms and adverbs to describe

- will definitely recover/ will recover
- will recover/ must recover
- will almost certainly improve/ will probably improve
- will probably improve/ is very likely to improve
- may well disappear/ may disappear
- could appear/ could possibly appear
- could possibly appear/ could conceivably appear
- am expecting to arrive/ am looking forward to arriving
- about to arrive/ due to arrive
- would like to/ would love to
- want to/ hope to
- hope I can/ wish I could
- will/ would
- will rain/ is going to rain
- am meeting him/ am going to meet him/ will meet him
- am going to change/ am planning to change
- “We need some milk” “Don’t worry, I’ll get some from the supermarket”/ “We need some milk” “Don’t worry, I’m going to get some from the supermarket”
- will have changed/ will be changing

Differences between future times to describe

- on Monday/ by Monday
- in three days/ within three days
- in three days/ in the next three days
- in a couple of weeks/ in a few weeks
- in a year/ a year later
- within five days/ within five working days
- in 2020/ by 2020
- by 2020/ before 2020
- by 2020/ until 2020
- later/ sometime
- in 2030/ in the 2030s
- this evening/ tonight

Ask about any which you couldn’t explain or aren’t sure about.