

## The Future in IELTS Speaking and Writing

*First of all without any help, look at the lists below and try to guess what part of the exam they are most commonly used as answers in. The forms at the top of each list are those which are most common in that part of the exam.*

will

is expected to/ It is expected that

is predicted to/ It is predicted that

is forecast to/ It is forecast that

is projected to/ It is projected that

will have + PP (= Future Perfect)

The expectation is that

will be + v+ing (= Future Continuous)

be v+ing (Present Continuous with future meaning)

want to/ would like to

would love to

be planning to

be going to + v

will probably

might/ may

might well/ may well

will (probably/ almost certainly) be + v+ing (= Future Continuous)

will (probably/ almost certainly) have + PP (= Future Perfect)

will probably

will almost certainly

want/ would like

could possibly

I predict that...

I expect... to...

may well/ might well

*Use these more specific examples to help with the task above.*

will reach a peak

is expected to rebound/ It is expected that it will level off

is predicted to bounce back/ It is predicted that it will plateau

is forecast to fluctuate/ It is forecast that it will continue to decline

is projected to peak/ It is projected that it will accelerate

will have overtaken...

The expectation is that it will maintain that high level until...

will be slowing down

I'm meeting an old school friend for dinner.

I want to set up my own business./ I would like to move abroad.

I would love to write a book.

I'm planning to have an overseas break next summer.

I'm going to move house next year.

I will probably move back to my hometown when I retire.

I don't have any plans, but I might/ may watch a movie on Netflix.

I'm not sure but I might well/ may well be invited to an end of year party.

I will probably still be doing the same job at that time.

I hope that I will have got married and had kids.

Economic growth will probably slow down as the population shrinks.

Pollution will almost certainly get worse before it gets better.

We all want to live in a world safe from crime./ I would like the government to invest more money in this area.

The birth rate could possible recover.

I predict that there will be no more petrol cars in thirty years.

I expect politics to become more aggressive.

Paper books may well/ might well be with us forever.

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*Match the sections above to these parts of the exam:*

- Speaking Part One (personal questions)
- Writing Part One (describing diagrams/ data)
- Speaking Part Three (discussion questions)
- Writing Part Two (discursive essay)

*One section above matches two parts of the exam.*

*Check your answers as a class.*

*Without looking above, brainstorm suitable future forms for each of those parts of the exam. Other forms not above may also be possible.*

*Look at a line graph including the future and try to find data that you could describe with Future Perfect and Future Continuous. Then discuss if that information should be included in an answer to that question or not (when you select and summarise the data).*