

Be Going To, Present Progressive, and Future Progressive

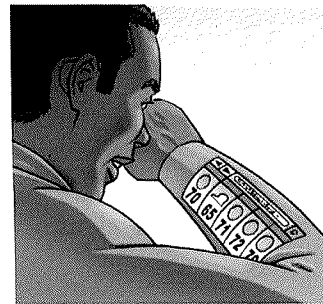
Looking Ahead at Technology

1 Grammar in the Real World

A How is technology used today? Read the web article about technology use in the future. What is one way that technology use will develop?

Looking Ahead at Technology

Technology has become an essential part of everyday life for many people. We depend on the Internet, for example, for easy access to information and communication. Computers, cell phones, and other handheld gadgets provide constant entertainment. No one knows for sure what technology **is going to bring** us in the future. However, there is no doubt that it **will continue** to drastically affect how we live and work.



Market research¹ suggests that in the future we **will be depending** on the Internet even more than we are now.

10 According to British writer Tim Walker, the world **will be** “blanketed² by Wi-Fi.”³ This **will allow** us to connect to the Internet almost anywhere. However, people **will not want** to carry around bulky laptops. Instead, computers **will be** wearable. Computers **will be** combined with watches, glasses, shirts, or backpacks. Some people are already using glasses which project the Internet onto the glass lenses. People **will be** able to see the Internet but also
15 see the rest of the world. Combining computers and glasses **is going to become** even more popular in the future.

Other people **will use** fabric-based computers. This technology, called “smart clothing,” **will combine** computers with clothing. With smart clothing, people **will be** able to look at their shirt sleeve and see the news or the weather, which people **will download**
20 directly from the Internet. Researchers predict that the use of laptops and computers **will decrease** as the availability of smart clothing increases.

In the future, there **will be** many advances in technology and many changes in the ways technology affects our lives. As technology changes, devices such as smart clothing **will become** more and more popular. In short, it is clear that almost everything we do **will**
25 **happen** with the help of technology.

¹market research: the study of consumer behavior | ²blanket: cover | ³Wi-Fi: a system of wireless networks, especially used for the Internet

B Comprehension Check Answer the questions.

1. What are some ways technology will change in the future?
2. How will people in the future access the Internet?
3. What is "smart clothing"?

C Notice Find the sentences in the article and complete them.

1. Market research suggests that in the future we _____ on the Internet even more than we do now.
2. Combining computers and glasses _____ even more popular in the future.
3. Other people _____ fabric-based computers.

How many different verb forms in items 1–3 did the author of the reading use to talk about the future?

2 Be Going To, Present Progressive, and Simple Present for Future

▶ Grammar Presentation

Be going to and the present progressive are used to describe future plans. The simple present is used to describe a scheduled future event.

I am going to buy a new smartphone.
 The store **is offering** free Wi-Fi all next week.
 The new movie **comes out** next week.

2.1 Be Going to vs. Present Progressive for Future Plans

- a.** Use *be going to* + base form of the verb to express general intentions and plans for the future.

I'm going to buy a 3D TV someday.

You can use expressions like *probably, most likely, I think, and I believe* with this form.

My parents probably **aren't going to buy** one. *I think they* **are going to save** their money for a trip instead.

- b.** Use the present progressive to express definite plans and arrangements for the future, especially when a time or place is mentioned.

I'm buying a 3D TV tomorrow.
 The class **is taking** a trip to the science museum next week.

- c.** In many cases, both forms can be used to express the same idea.

I'm watching a movie this evening.
I'm going to watch a movie this evening.