WILL / WON'T (decisions, offers, promises)

Main theme addressed		In this lesson, you will learn how to use the "will + infinitive"construction for decisions, offers and promises.
Key Goals		Here is an outline of what you will learn today: 1. How to form the will + INF – construction in various syntactic contexts (positive, negation, interrogative). 2. How to recognize and distinguish contexts of decisions, offers and promises. 3. How to formulate decisions, offers and promises yourself.

1. How to form the will + INF – construction in various syntactic contexts (positive, negation, interrogative)

The **will** + INF – construction is a complex construction, which consists of two verbs:

- The future-referring auxiliary **will.**
- The **bare infinitive** (i.e. without "to") of a lexical verb.

Example:

He will come soon.

Will (contracted form '**ll**) is the same for all singular and plural pronouns.

- In **negations**, **will not** typically combines to **won't,** which remains equally unchanged for all forms of the paradigm.

- In **questions**, **will** precedes the subject, which in turn is followed by the bare infinitive. Look at the following table for the verb **to help** and study the forms:

	+ Full / Contracted form	- Full / Contracted form	Interrogative
I	will / 'll help	will not / won't help	will I help
You	will / 'll help	will not / won't help	will you help
He/She/It	will / 'll help	will not / won't help	will he/she/it help
We	will / 'll help	will not / won't help	will we help
You	will / 'll help	will not / won't help	will you help
They	will / 'll help	will not / won't help	will they help

After **I** and **we**, some people say **shall / shall not – shan't** instead of **will / will not – won't.**

The meaning is the same, but the forms based on **will** are far more common in modern English.

Example:

I shall come tomorrow.

In contexts of offers phrased as questions, **shall** instead of **will** is the only possibility,

Example:

Shall I open the window? **Shall** we dance?

Have a look at some examples for offers, decisions and promises:

Examples:

I'll carry the shopping for you. (offer)

We'll help you with your homework. (offer)

That's the phone. - **I'll answer** it. (decision)

There's someone knocking at the door. – **I'll go**. (decision)

Don't worry. **We won't forget** you. (promise)

I really will give up smoking. (promise)

Exercise:

Fill the gap in sentences by using the verb in parenthesis in the "will + infinitive" form.
Choose whether to use the positive or negative form.

1. There's no food in the house. – Ok, I _____

   (go shopping).

2. I can't move this table. – No problem, I _____

   you. (help)

3. Don't worry, Mum. I _____ too fast. (drive)

4. I _____ you a postcard. (send)

5. I'm tired. I think I _____ to bed. (go)

Answers:

1. 'll go shopping
2. 'll help
3. won't drive
4. 'll send
5. 'll go

2. How to recognize and distinguish contexts of decisions, offers and promises

The **will + INF** – construction is used for different language functions.

For example, it is used for spontaneous **decisions**, i.e. decisions that are taken right at the moment of speaking (as opposed to intentions/plans, which are based on decisions that already exist).

Examples:

I'm really not enjoying this film. I think **I'll go** home.

I really like that jumper in the shop window! I think **I'll try** it on.

The **will + INF** – construction is also used for kind **offers**, i.e. in contexts when you are signalling someone that you are ready to help them.

Examples:

I can't find my car keys. – **I'll help** you look for them.

I'm hungry. – **I'll make** you a sandwich.

You also use the **will + INF** – construction when you make a **promise,** i.e. when assure someone that you will definitely do something or that something will definitely happen.

Examples:

I'll study English every day.

I'll always **think** before I speak.

Exercise:

Decide if the following sentences are spontaneous decisions, offers or promises.

Circle the correct answer below the sentence.

1. I'll pay you back next week.

   - decision / offer / promise

2. I'll have the soup, please.

   - decision / offer / promise

3. I'll always love you.

   - decision / offer / promise

4. Shall I open the window?

   - decision / offer / promise

5. Yeah, that's really nice. I'll take it.

   - decision / offer / promise

6. This won't hurt.

   - decision / offer / promise

7. I won't have the steak, I'll have the fish!

   - decision / offer / promise

Answers:

1. promise
2. decision
3. promise
4. offer
5. decision
6. promise
7. decision

3. How to formulate decisions, offers and promises yourself

Now you are ready to have a go at formulating spontaneous decisions, kind offers and promises yourself. Have a look at the following exercises. Enjoy!

Exercise:

Complete these promises and offers with 'll / won't or shall.

1. _____ I put these bags in the car for you?

2. I know it's important! Believe me, I _____ forget.

3. Gosh, how expensive! You _____ find better prices anywhere!

4. Ok, I _____ lend you 10 Euro, but you must pay me back tomorrow.

5. I _____ tell anybody your secret.

6. It's very cold in here. I think I _____ turn the heating on.

7. Oh, I _____ hold your umbrella.

8. _____ I wrap this present for you?

Answers

1. Shall

2. won't

3. 'll

4. 'll

5. won't

6. 'll

7. 'll

8. Shall

Exercise:

Complete the sentences with 'll / won't or shall plus a verb from this list:

carry – get – help – take – call – forget

1. When will I see you again? – I _____ you tonight.

2. It's my birthday next Monday. – Don't worry, I _____.

3. I'm thirsty. – I _____ you a glass of water.

4. I don't feel very well. - _____ I _____ you home?

5. These suitcases are really heavy. – I _____one for you.

6. This exercise is really hard. – Don't worry. I _____ you do it.

Answers:

1. 'll call

2. won't forget

3. 'll get

4. Shall … take

5. 'll carry

6. 'll help

Learn More:

https://agendaweb.org/verbs/future-will.html

https://english.lingolia.com/it/grammatica/tempi/future-simple-will/esercizi

https://www.engvid.com/future-tense-will-going-to/111421/