

Future Tense

Future tense verbs tell us what will happen.

The usual rule for future tense is that we add 'will' before the verb e.g. the man **will** climb the ladder.

All children make errors using verb tenses when they are younger. Some children need extra help to get it right.

How can I help my child with understanding and using the future tense?

- Your child will first need to understand that future tenses need the word 'will' in front of the action word. For example, "we will go swimming later"
- Talk about what is going to happen in everyday situations. For example, "Daddy will pick you up from school today."
- You can talk to your child about what you will do tomorrow, at the weekend or in the holidays.
- Give your child lots of praise when they remember to use the future tense e.g. 'that's right, Granny will be coming for dinner tomorrow.'
- Use a picture / jigsaw / picture book to talk about what will happen. Use a few sentences first to give your child examples, e.g. 'I think the boy will drop his ice cream' or 'Perhaps the girls will buy new books.'
- Talk as a group about what you will do this evening or over the weekend. Doing this as a group activity ensures your child can hear lots of models of the future tense.
- Use the 'Time Path' available from Black Sheep (ask your therapist to send you a copy if you do not have access to Black Sheep Resources.)
- Use the pictures given to you by your therapist or cut out pictures from magazines, newspapers or catalogues. You can use them to play the following games:
- Pairs, snap or lotto games. Make sure you say the word every time you or your child put down or pick up a card, e.g. 'the girl will eat the cake.'





- Skittles: Place a picture under each skittle. Take turns to roll the ball and knock the skittles down. You and your child say what is happening in the pictures under each skittle that is knocked down.
- Bean bag game: Lay the pictures face down, on the floor. Take turns to throw a beanbag onto the pictures. Talk about the picture you land on. e.g. 'man will drive the car.'
- Put the pictures in a pile and play any board game. Take turns to turn over a card and make a sentence, e.g. 'the cows will be fed.' When you use the correct verb ending you roll the dice and take a turn on the board game.

Self Correction

When your child becomes more familiar with using future tense verbs:

- Give your child choices 'Do you mean she run or she will run?'
- Encourage your child to monitor and self correct 'He jump, does that sound right?'