



**APEX ENGLISH**

Your voice. Global.

**B1 · GENERAL ENGLISH**

**UNIT 10 · B1·10A**

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# Might, may & maybe

*Theme · Looking ahead*



Unit 10 · B1·10A

# Might, may & maybe

Theme: *Looking ahead*

B1 · General English



## Learning objectives

- Talk about the future with different levels of certainty.
- Use will / be going to / might / may correctly.
- Describe your plans, guesses and possibilities for the next 12 months.

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## Class Book

### Warm-up · One certain, one likely, one wild

Say **THREE** things about your next 12 months. **ONE** certain (already booked / decided). **ONE** likely (probably going to happen). **ONE** wild (unlikely but you dream about it).

Certain: a trip, an exam, a wedding?

Likely: what you're leaning towards?

Wild: 5% chance but big?

### Lead-in · Predict the year

For each prediction, decide: **LIKELY** / **UNLIKELY** / **IMPOSSIBLE** within the next 10 years. Then reveal a possible answer.

1. Most new cars sold in Europe will be electric.

2. AI will write more than half of the news articles you read online.

3. You'll be paid in a fully digital currency (no coins, no notes).

4. Portugal will have won the Football World Cup.

5. You'll live in a completely different city or country from today.

6. Handwriting will disappear from schools.

**followUp:** Which prediction do YOU disagree with most? Which one worries you?

### Reading · The letter to my 40-year-old self

In my early twenties, a friend suggested we all write letters to our 40-year-old selves. We wrote them, sealed them, and gave them to each other with instructions: 'Open in 15 years.' Fifteen years later, the envelopes came back.

Reading my letter was strange. Some things had come true almost exactly — I predicted I'd live in Lisbon, I predicted I'd write for a living, and I predicted I'd still be terrible at maths. Other things were completely wrong. I was **CERTAIN** I'd have three children by now. I have none, and I'm happy. I was **CERTAIN** I'd have a big garden. I have a small balcony, which I love more than any garden.

The lesson wasn't 'don't plan'. The lesson was: plan lightly. Some predictions will land, some won't, and some things you never even thought of will show up and become the best parts of your life. The 25-year-old me had no idea I'd love night walks or become obsessed with bread. Neither did I, ten years

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ago. Maybe next year I'll pick up something else nobody expects. That's the fun part.

1. What did the friends do?
  - (A) Wrote letters to their 20-year-old selves
  - (B) Wrote letters to their 40-year-old selves, sealed
  - (C) Made a podcast
2. Which prediction was RIGHT?
  - (A) Three children
  - (B) Living in Lisbon
  - (C) Big garden
3. What's the writer's lesson?
  - (A) Don't plan at all
  - (B) Plan lightly — some things will surprise you
  - (C) Always follow the plan strictly

### Vocabulary in context

*Match the phrase to its meaning.*

**sealed (envelope)** — closed so no one can open it easily

**come true** — happen as predicted

**certain** — completely sure

**land (a prediction)** — turn out to be correct

### True / False / Not Given

*Based only on the text.*

1. The writer has three children.
  - (A) True
  - (B) False
  - (C) Not Given
2. The writer regrets writing the letter.
  - (A) True
  - (B) False
  - (C) Not Given
3. The writer lives in Lisbon.
  - (A) True
  - (B) False
  - (C) Not Given

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4. The writer's friend also opened her letter.

- (A) True
- (B) False
- (C) Not Given

### React to the text

Answer in 2–3 sentences.

1. Would YOU write a letter to your 40-year-old (or 60-year-old) self? What would you say?

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2. Is it better to plan life carefully, or plan lightly?

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### Scan for meaning

Find the word or phrase from the text.

1. closed so no one can open easily

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2. happen as predicted

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3. turn out to be correct

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## Vocabulary · Future, plans & possibilities

**plan** — an intention or arrangement for the future

**goal** — something you want to achieve

**resolution** — a decision (often for the new year)

**deadline** — the last day to do something

**opportunity** — a good chance to do something

**prediction** — a statement about what will happen

**set a goal** — decide what to achieve

**make plans** — arrange future activities

**change your mind** — decide differently

**defer** — postpone, delay

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**come up (with)** — appear / think of (an idea)

**remain undecided** — not yet decided

### practice

*Complete each sentence with ONE word or phrase from the lists.*

1. My holiday plans are still \_\_\_\_ — I might go to Spain, or to my parents'.

2. I've decided to \_\_\_\_ my dentist appointment until next month.

3. This is a real \_\_\_\_ — a job in Berlin, all expenses paid.

4. My New Year's \_\_\_\_ was to run twice a week. It lasted three weeks.

5. We \_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_ two weeks ago — tickets already booked.

6. I \_\_\_\_ my \_\_\_\_ — I'm not going anymore.

### Collocations · future & planning

*Match each verb with its noun.*

**make** — a plan / a decision / a prediction

**achieve** — a goal / a target / success

**miss** — a deadline / an opportunity / a train

**keep** — a promise / a resolution / a secret

**look forward to** — the weekend / a holiday / an event

### Odd one out

*Choose the word that does NOT belong.*

1. plan · goal · resolution · umbrella

(A) plan

(B) goal

(C) resolution

(D) umbrella

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2. certain · sure · likely · frozen

(A) certain

(B) sure

(C) likely

(D) frozen

3. postpone · delay · defer · sneeze

(A) postpone

(B) delay

(C) defer

(D) sneeze

### Word building · verb ↔ noun ↔ adjective

Complete each set.

utility:

1. predict (v) → a \_\_\_\_ (n) → this is \_\_\_\_ (adj)

2. decide (v) → a \_\_\_\_ (n) → she's very \_\_\_\_ (adj)

3. plan (v) → a \_\_\_\_ (n) → he's careful and \_\_\_\_ (adj)



### Grammar · Future forms — will / be going to / might / may

1. will — decisions at the moment of speaking / predictions — • [phone rings] I'll get it. (decision now) • I'm sure she'll love it. (general prediction, no evidence)

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**2. be going to — plans already decided / evidence in front of you** — • I'm going to move house in March. (plan already decided) • Look at those clouds — it's going to rain. (evidence)

**3. might / may — possibility (I'm not sure)** — • I might travel to Japan next year. (maybe yes, maybe no — about 40–60%) • She may not come to the party. ('may' is slightly more formal than 'might'.) Both = 'perhaps'. You can also use 'may / might well' for stronger possibility.

**4. present continuous — fixed near-future arrangements (with a specific time)** — • I'm meeting Ana at 5. (already in the calendar) • We're flying to London on Friday. (tickets booked)

### Exercise A — Choose the best future form

Choose between *will* / *be going to* / *might* / *present continuous*.

1. [phone rings] Don't worry, I \_\_\_\_ (answer) it.

2. We \_\_\_\_ (move) house in March — the contract is signed.

3. I \_\_\_\_ (go) to Japan next year — or maybe Vietnam. I haven't decided.

4. I \_\_\_\_ (meet) Ana at 5. It's in my calendar.

5. Look at that queue! It \_\_\_\_ (take) forever.

### Exercise B — will or might?

Choose *WILL* (sure) or *MIGHT* (unsure).

1. The sun \_\_\_\_ rise tomorrow at 7:04.

2. It \_\_\_\_ rain tomorrow — the forecast isn't clear.

3. I \_\_\_\_ probably see her at the party — she said 'maybe'.

4. I promise I \_\_\_\_ call you when I land.

### Exercise C — Find and fix the mistake

Each sentence has *ONE* mistake.

1. I will to travel to Japan next year.

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2. We going to open a new café next month.

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3. I'm meeting her tomorrow at 3. (already scheduled) — same in Portuguese usage 'I meet her tomorrow at 3.'

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4. It maybe rain tomorrow.

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### Exercise D — Rewrite for a different meaning

*Rewrite each sentence using the future form in brackets.*

1. I'll travel to Italy in July. (going to)

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2. I'm meeting Rui at 5. (going to)

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3. I'll probably see her tomorrow. (might)

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### Exercise E — About you

*Complete each sentence truthfully.*

1. Next month I \_\_\_\_ (definite plan)

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2. This year I \_\_\_\_ (something unsure — use might)

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3. Tomorrow at 10 I \_\_\_\_ (calendar-fixed)

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### Exercise F — Complete the mini-conversation

*Complete each gap with the correct future form.*

1. — What \_\_\_\_ (you / do) this weekend? — I \_\_\_\_ (see) my sister on Saturday — plans made. On Sunday I \_\_\_\_ (stay) home if it rains, or I \_\_\_\_ (go) hiking if it doesn't.

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2. — Any plans for next year? — I \_\_\_\_ (change) job — I've decided. And I \_\_\_\_ (move) house — but that one's not sure yet.

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## Listening · Two friends compare next-year plans

Two friends over coffee. One has a firm plan; the other is 100% in 'might' territory. Notice the future forms.

### pre

Do you like people who plan everything, or people who 'see what happens'?

What's the SIZE of the plans you make — 3 months, 1 year, 5 years?

### gist

1. Who has firmer plans, Voice A or Voice B?

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2. What is Voice B's situation?

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3. What do they agree to do together no matter what?

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### detail

1. What is Voice A's new job?

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2. What are Voice B's three possible plans?

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3. When will Voice B know?

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### Third listen — read between the lines

Answer from what is IMPLIED.

1. Is Voice A excited or anxious about the move?

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2. Which of Voice B's three options does she secretly prefer?

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## Useful language from the audio

Match each phrase to what it does.

**"I'm going to move to Amsterdam in April."** — 'going to' — plan already decided

**"I might do a Master's in Madrid."** — 'might' — possibility, not sure

**"We're travelling together the last week of March — no matter what."** — present continuous — calendar-fixed

**"If I get the scholarship, I'll know by February."** — 1st conditional inside future talk

**"My plans are all up in the air."** — idiom — not yet decided

**Voice A:** So — April 15th. I'm going to move to Amsterdam.

**Voice B:** Wait — actually? Contract signed?

**Voice A:** Signed last week. Small children's toy company. Six-month contract, possibly permanent. Flat sorted, salary decent, everything real.

**Voice B:** Wow. Meanwhile my plans are all up in the air.

**Voice A:** What are the options?

**Voice B:** Three. One: a Master's in Madrid — I might get a scholarship, we'll know by end of February. Two: freelance from Lisbon, safe but boring. Three, and don't laugh...

**Voice A:** Now I have to laugh.

**Voice B:** Six months travelling in Central America. Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, El Salvador. I've been saving.

**Voice A:** You're going to do option three.

**Voice B:** Maybe. If I get the scholarship, I'll do the Master's. If I don't, I might do Central America. Or I might chicken out and freelance.

**Voice A:** One thing — no matter what — we're travelling together the last week of March.

**Voice B:** Deal. Portugal or Netherlands, depending on my news.

**Voice A:** Either works. Just say the word.

## Fourth listen — fill the gaps

Listen again and complete the exact phrases.

1. I \_\_\_\_ move to Amsterdam in April.

2. I \_\_\_\_ get a scholarship.

3. We \_\_\_\_ (travel) together the last week of March.

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4. If I don't (get it), I \_\_\_\_ do Central America.

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## Speaking · Your next 12 months

*In pairs, describe your next 12 months. Use AT LEAST ONE of each: will / be going to / might / present continuous. Ask 3 follow-up questions each.*

**Scene:** The plan-heavy person

A: You: everything is booked — describe it.

B: You: ask what would happen if one plan collapsed.

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**Scene:** The 'up in the air' person

A: You: nothing decided, use lots of 'might'.

B: You: gently help your partner narrow it down.

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**Scene:** The mix (some plans, some maybes)

A: You: 2 firm plans + 2 possibilities.

B: You: ask about the possibilities, not the plans.

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## Discussion · the future

*Choose 2 questions and speak for 30–45 seconds each.*

What's ONE thing you're SURE will happen in your life this year?

What's ONE thing you'd love to happen, but probably won't?

Is it better to be a planner or improvise?

What's the last big plan you changed your mind about?

## Role-play · A friend leaving the country

*Read your role, prepare, then run the conversation for 2 minutes.*

**Scene:** Your best friend has just told you they're moving abroad in three months

A: You: excited for them, but also selfish and sad. Ask 3 practical questions.

B: You: happy but slightly anxious. Answer honestly using will / going to / might.

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## Mini-presentation · 60-second next year

*Deliver a 60-second sketch of YOUR next year. Use at least ONE of each: will / going to / might.*

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Beat 1 (10s) — Something already decided.

Beat 2 (15s) — Something you're leaning towards ('probably going to').

Beat 3 (20s) — Something possible but not sure ('might').

Beat 4 (15s) — A prediction about how you'll feel by December.

**sample:** Something already decided: I'm going to spend two weeks in Madeira in April — flights booked, family coming. Leaning towards: I'm probably going to change job — I've had two interviews. Not sure: I might learn to sail; it depends on whether my friend actually signs us up. Prediction: by December I'll be more tired than I imagine, but happier than last year. That's the plan.

## Writing · A short 'next year' post

*Write 80–100 words about your next year. Use at least ONE will / one going to / one might / one present continuous for arrangements.*

**bonus:** Bonus — Send it to your future self by email (there are free 'future email' services).

## Wrap-up · What did we cover?

'will' = decisions at the moment / predictions.

'going to' = plans already decided / clear evidence.

'might / may' = possibility, not sure.

Present continuous = calendar-fixed near-future arrangements.

## Quiz

- [phone rings] The best answer:  
(A) I'm going to answer it.  
(B) I'll answer it.  
(C) I answer it.
- "We \_\_\_\_ open a new café — the papers are signed."  
(A) might  
(B) are going to  
(C) may
- "I \_\_\_\_ go to Japan — I really haven't decided."  
(A) will  
(B) am going to  
(C) might
- "I \_\_\_\_ Ana at 5 — it's in my calendar."  
(A) will meet  
(B) am meeting  
(C) might meet

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5. 'Up in the air' means...

- (A) decided and booked
- (B) not yet decided
- (C) cancelled

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## Workbook — home practice

### 1. Vocabulary recall

*Complete each sentence with the best word from the class-book lesson.*

1. Write ONE new word from the lesson and its meaning in your own words.

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2. Write ONE collocation from the lesson and use it in a sentence about your life.

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3. Write ONE phrase you'd use in real conversation this week.

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### 2. Grammar practice · Future forms — will / going to / might

*Rewrite each sentence using the target grammar of this lesson.*

1. Sentence 1 → rewrite it correctly with the target grammar.

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2. Sentence 2 → rewrite it correctly with the target grammar.

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3. Sentence 3 → find and fix ONE mistake.

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4. Sentence 4 → complete the gap with the correct form.

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5. Sentence 5 → write your own example, true about you.

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### 3. Reading recall

*Look back at the class-book reading. Answer briefly in your own words.*

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1. What was the main idea in ONE sentence?

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2. What is ONE opinion of the writer you agree with?

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3. What is ONE opinion you disagree with, and why?

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#### 4. Listening · a follow-up dialogue

*Two voices talk about looking ahead for about a minute. Notice the target grammar in use.*

1. What is the main topic of the conversation?

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2. Who sounds more confident and why?

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3. Which target-grammar phrase appears TWICE in the audio?

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**Voice A:** So — tell me about your looking ahead this week. Anything different?

**Voice B:** Honestly, yes. I've been trying something new — and it's changed how I feel completely.

**Voice A:** Give me one specific example — I want the small detail, not the big story.

**Voice B:** OK: I stopped checking my phone before bed. Just that. And I already sleep better.

#### 5. Writing · a short reflection

*Write 70–100 words about the theme of this lesson. Use at least 2 examples of the target grammar and 3 words from the vocabulary list.*

#### 6. Reflection

*Look back at your notes from class. Answer briefly.*

1. What is ONE thing from this lesson you already use naturally?

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2. What is ONE thing you'd like to practise more this week? How exactly?

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## Answer key — Class Book

### Lead-in · Predict the year

1. LIKELY — EU has set 2035 as the target date; the trend is already visible in Norway, Netherlands and increasingly Portugal.
2. LIKELY-ISH — much of it will be AI-assisted; whether you'd notice is a different question.
3. UNLIKELY — 'less cash' yes, 'no cash' no. Most countries won't abolish physical money by 2035.
4. UNLIKELY but not impossible — cycles of 4 years, tough draw, but Portugal has a strong pool.
5. OPEN — for many, 30–40% chance in a decade. Depends heavily on age, career, family.
6. UNLIKELY within 10 years — some countries have reduced it (Finland), most keep it, and cognitive research supports it.

### Reading · The letter to my 40-year-old self

1. (B) Wrote letters to their 40-year-old selves, sealed
2. (B) Living in Lisbon
3. (B) Plan lightly — some things will surprise you
1. (B) False
2. (B) False
3. (A) True
4. (C) Not Given
1. Model: yes — I'd want to warn myself not to worry so much and to keep the friends I have now. Everything else can change.
2. Model: lightly. Every big plan I've ever made has changed shape, and usually for the better.
1. sealed
2. come true
3. land

### Vocabulary · Future, plans & possibilities

1. undecided
2. defer
3. opportunity
4. resolution
5. made / plans
6. changed / mind
1. (D) umbrella
2. (D) frozen
3. (D) sneeze
1. prediction / predictable
2. decision / decisive
3. plan / planned

### Grammar · Future forms — will / be going to / might / may

1. will / 'll answer
2. are going to move
3. might go
4. am meeting / 'm meeting
5. is going to take / 's going to take
1. will (certain)
2. might
3. might
4. will
1. I will travel / I'm going to travel next year.
2. We're going to open a new café next month.
3. I'm meeting her tomorrow at 3. (use present continuous)
4. It might rain tomorrow. / Maybe it will rain tomorrow.
1. I'm going to travel to Italy in July. (already decided)

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2. I'm going to meet Rui at 5. (planned but less calendar-fixed)
3. I might see her tomorrow.
1. Model: Next month I'm going to visit my parents for a long weekend — tickets already booked.
2. Model: This year I might change flat — but only if my landlord raises the rent again.
3. Model: Tomorrow at 10 I'm meeting the dentist. Terrifying but necessary.
1. are you doing / going to do / am seeing / 'm seeing / will stay / 'll stay / will go / 'll go (or might go)
2. am going to change / 'm going to change / might move

### Listening · Two friends compare next-year plans

1. Voice A — has already signed a contract to move to Amsterdam in April.
2. Nothing decided — she might do 3 different things, and each one depends on a phone call she's waiting for.
3. Spend the last week of March travelling together — either in Portugal or in the Netherlands, depending on Voice B's news.
1. A design role at a small children's toy company — 6-month contract, then possibly permanent.
2. 1) A Master's in Madrid, 2) freelance from Lisbon, 3) six months of travelling in Central America.
3. By the end of February — the scholarship for the Master's is announced then.
1. Both — she keeps repeating small details (the flat, the contract, the salary) which sounds like she's reassuring herself.
2. Central America — she says it last, laughs when she mentions it, and speaks in more detail than about the others.
1. am going to / 'm going to
2. might
3. are travelling / 're travelling
4. might

### Quiz

1. (B) I'll answer it.
2. (B) are going to
3. (C) might
4. (B) am meeting
5. (B) not yet decided

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## Answer key — Workbook

### 1. Vocabulary recall

1. Open answer — check with your teacher.
2. Open answer.
3. Open answer.

### 2. Grammar practice · Future forms — will / going to / might

1. Model answer — see class notes.
2. Model answer — see class notes.
3. Model answer — see class notes.
4. Model answer — see class notes.
5. Open answer.

### 3. Reading recall

1. Open answer — around 15 words.
2. Open answer.
3. Open answer — 2 sentences.

### 4. Listening · a follow-up dialogue

1. Model: both speakers compare their own experience of looking ahead.
2. Open answer — look for specific detail and full sentences.
3. Open answer — see transcript.

### 6. Reflection

1. Open answer.
2. Open answer — be specific: what, when, how often.

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