What happens next?

Predictions | B1/B1+ | Teens & adults | 45-60 minutes

PRED1 | STUDENT PAGE 1 / GRAMMAR AND PRACTICE

Look for clues. Make a prediction. Explain your reason.

A short guide to predictions
be going to + base verb: a prediction based on evidence now.
Look at that full glass near the edge! It's going to fall.
will / won't + base verb: what you think or expect about the future.
I think she'll win. / I don't think they'll lose.
might / may / could + base verb: something is possible, but uncertain.
They might arrive late. / She may call. / It could snow.
probably: I'll probably stay. / It probably won't rain.
Forms: He is going to leave. / They are going to leave.
He might leave. (No **to** or **-s** after will, might, may or could.)

1. Complete the examples

Use the form in brackets and the verb given. More than one form can sometimes express a prediction; here, practise the form requested.

Example: Look at the ice! She **is going to slip**. (going to / slip)

1. Look at the dark clouds! It _____. (going to / rain)

2. I think you _____ the story. (will / enjoy)

3. Perhaps the bus is delayed. We _____ late. (might / be)

4. The cup is right on the edge. It _____. (going to / fall)

5. I expect it to stay dry. It probably _____. (will / not rain)

6. Perhaps Jo can help. She _____ a solution. (could / find)

Say it your way: Finish one prediction about tomorrow. Give a reason.
I think... / ...is going to... because... / ...might...
Then: Go to page 2. Keep the next page hidden until you have predicted.

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PRED1 | STUDENT PAGE 2 / PREDICT 1

1. The café - before

LISTEN 01 - Before



Useful words: cat / paw / edge / cup

Describe three things you can see. Which clue seems most useful?

1. Make two different predictions. Give a reason for each.
2. Tell your partner which seems more likely, and why.

I think... will... / ...is going to... because... / ...might...

Stop here. Agree on your predictions before turning the page.
The next picture shows the ending chosen for this story.

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What happens next?

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1. The café - what happened?

LISTEN 02 - After



Look first: What has changed? Describe the ending to your partner.

Compare: Which prediction was closest? Which clue helped you?
Was another prediction also reasonable from the first picture?

Look back at the first picture. Say a prediction again.
Use a different form, or give a clearer reason.
Remember: A sensible prediction can differ from this story's ending.

Next: Go to page 4 for a new picture story.

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2. The picnic - before

LISTEN 03 - Before



Useful words: cloud / raindrop / blanket / umbrella

What can you see in the sky? How might the people react?

1. Make two different predictions. Give a reason for each.
2. Tell your partner which seems more likely, and why.

I think... will... / ...is going to... because... / ...might...

Stop here. Agree on your predictions before turning the page.
The next picture shows the ending chosen for this story.

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What happens next?

Predictions | B1/B1+ | Teens & adults | 45-60 minutes

2. The picnic - what happened?

LISTEN 04 - After



Look first: What has changed? Describe the ending to your partner.

Compare: Which prediction was closest? Which clue helped you?
Was another prediction also reasonable from the first picture?

Look back at the first picture. Say a prediction again.
Use a different form, or give a clearer reason.
Remember: A sensible prediction can differ from this story's ending.

Next: Go to page 6 for a new picture story.

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PRED1 | STUDENT PAGE 6 / PREDICT 3

3. The market - before

LISTEN 05 - Before



Useful words: paper bag / hole / orange / basket

Look at the bag and the basket. What could happen to the oranges?

1. Make two different predictions. Give a reason for each.
2. Tell your partner which seems more likely, and why.

I think... will... / ...is going to... because... / ...might...

Stop here. Agree on your predictions before turning the page.
The next picture shows the ending chosen for this story.

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What happens next?

Predictions | B1/B1+ | Teens & adults | 45-60 minutes

3. The market - what happened?

LISTEN 06 - After



Look first: What has changed? Describe the ending to your partner.

Compare: Which prediction was closest? Which clue helped you?
Was another prediction also reasonable from the first picture?

Look back at the first picture. Say a prediction again.
Use a different form, or give a clearer reason.
Remember: A sensible prediction can differ from this story's ending.

Finish: Invent a new ending for one story. Your partner predicts it.
For homework, use the separate PRED1 Homework and Key pages.
Lesson notes and more teaching ideas: howtoenglishpod.com

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PRED1 | TEACHER NOTES AND ANSWERS

Share: Student pages 1-7. Keep teacher pages 8-9 for yourself.
Reveal control: Show one page at a time on screen, or hand out pages in order. For print, use single-sided pages and keep reveal sheets hidden.
Outcome: Learners make and justify predictions, choose a suitable form and compare predictions with illustrated outcomes.

Suggested lesson route

Grammar and examples | 8-10 minutes. Elicit a prediction about tomorrow. Read the short guide on page 1, complete the six examples and check. Focus on meaning and verb form.

Three picture stories | 24-30 minutes. Allow 4-5 minutes per before picture: notice details, make two predictions and choose the more likely one. Reveal the following page for 3-5 minutes of description and comparison. Do not show future reveal pages early.

New ending and feedback | 8-10 minutes. Pairs invent a different ending for one story, then describe the before picture and ask another pair to predict. Recast a few useful errors and let learners repeat a prediction.

Homework setup | 3-5 minutes. Give only homework page 1 first (or use story 4 in the picture player). Learners predict the birthday ending and complete the form practice. Release page 2 after completion for the reveal and self-check.

Answers and useful alternatives

Page 1: 1 is going to rain; 2 will enjoy / 'll enjoy; 3 might be; 4 is going to fall; 5 won't rain / will not rain; 6 could find.

Story 1: The cat has knocked the cup onto the floor. The coffee has spilled.
Possible predictions: The cat is going to knock the cup over. / The woman might catch the cup before it falls.

Story 2: It is raining. The two people are sheltering under a yellow umbrella.
Possible predictions: It is going to rain. / They might pack up the picnic and leave.

Story 3: The bag has ripped. The woman has caught the oranges in her basket.
Possible predictions: The bag is going to break. / The oranges might fall onto the ground.

Teaching focus: Going to highlights present evidence; will often expresses a belief or expectation. They can overlap: do not teach them as mutually exclusive. Might, may and could express possibility, without fixed percentages. A different ending does not make an earlier, well-supported prediction grammatically wrong.

Support / extension: Pre-teach the picture words; let learners rehearse one sentence with a partner. At B1+, ask for a less obvious ending and an explanation of why it is less likely. In one-to-one lessons, take the partner role.

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What happens next?

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PRED1 | TEACHER AUDIO SCRIPTS / RECORDING PLAN

Eight short clips: one before and one after for each story.
Status: Eight numbered MP3 recordings are supplied in the audio pack.
Delivery: Four catalogue voices; the same voice is used within each pair. Open START-HERE.html in the audio pack for the picture player, or use the numbered MP3s.

Listen, predict, then reveal

Play the before clip once learners have looked at the picture. Ask for predictions and reasons. Turn the page, then play the after clip. Keep scripts and after clips hidden until the reveal. PDF listening buttons open the matching MP3 when the PDFs and audio folder are kept together. The activity also works without audio.

01 / Café before / British English

I just need to finish this message. My coffee is beside me, and the cat looks very interested. What are you doing there?

02 / Café after / Same voice

Oh no! The cat knocked my cup off the table. There is coffee all over the floor. At least my notebook is still dry.

03 / Picnic before / Indian English

This is a lovely place for lunch. But look at those dark clouds. I can feel a few drops of rain. What should we do?

04 / Picnic after / Same voice

Well, the rain has started! Luckily, we brought a big umbrella. We can sit under it together and keep our sandwiches dry for now.

05 / Market before / South African English

These oranges look delicious. I think I bought too many, though. This paper bag feels heavy, and there is a hole in the bottom.

06 / Market after / Same voice

The bag has broken! Luckily, this woman caught the oranges in her basket. Thank you for helping. That was a very quick reaction!

07 / Birthday before / Australian English

Everyone is looking at my birthday cake. The candles are all lit. Right, I need to take a deep breath. Are you ready?

08 / Birthday after / Same voice

Yes! All the candles are out. Look at the smoke above the cake. Everyone can have a piece now. Thank you for celebrating with me!

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What happens next?

Predictions | B1/B1+ | Teens & adults | 45-60 minutes

PRED1 | HOMEWORK PAGE 1 / PREDICT AND PRACTISE

A. The birthday - what happens next?

LISTEN 07 - Before



Write two different predictions. Use **going to** for one and **might, may** or **could** for the other. Explain a picture clue for each.

B. Complete the examples

Use the form in brackets and the verb given.

1. Look! The bag has a big hole. It _____. (going to / break)

2. I think everyone _____ the cake. (will / enjoy)

3. Perhaps the guests are delayed. They _____ late. (may / arrive)

4. I expect a dry afternoon. It probably _____. (will / not rain)

C. Make it personal. Write 40-60 words about tomorrow on paper or digitally. Include one prediction with **will**, one with **going to** and one with **might, may** or **could**. Give reasons.
Do not turn over until you have finished.

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What happens next?

Predictions | B1/B1+ | Teens & adults | 45-60 minutes

PRED1 | HOMEWORK PAGE 2 / REVEAL AND KEY

A. The birthday - the story ending

LISTEN 08 - After



The girl has blown out all the candles. The woman is clapping.
Compare your predictions with the picture. Were your reasons sensible?

A. Possible predictions (other answers are welcome)
She **is going to blow out** the candles because she is taking a breath.
The woman **might clap** because she is watching and smiling.
Your prediction may differ from the reveal. Check the clue and grammar.

B. Answers

1 **is going to break**
2 **will enjoy / 'll enjoy**
3 **may arrive**
4 **won't rain / will not rain** (It probably won't rain.)

C. Sample answer (44 words)

I think I'll enjoy tomorrow because I have a free afternoon. My bike has a flat tyre, so I'm going to walk to the park. I might meet a friend there, but we haven't arranged anything yet. It depends on whether she has time.

Self-check: Did you include all three forms and give reasons? Use am/is/are before going to, and the base verb after will, might, may and could. Your own paragraph will be different from this model.

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