

# English vocabulary: “will”

## 1) Future Simple (auxiliary verb)

- I think it **will** rain tomorrow. (*prediction*)
- One day, I **will** be old. (*fact*)
- **Will** you have some more tea? (*offer*)
- **Will** you please be quiet! (*polite demand*)
- **Will** you close the window? (*request*)
- I **will** call you when I arrive. (*promise*)
- If it doesn't rain, I **will** go to the beach on Saturday. (*possibility*)
- A: “I'm really hungry!” B: “OK! I **will** make some sandwiches.” (*reaction*)



## 2) Testament (noun)

- I am getting old. I should make a **will**.
- We have a meeting with my lawyer tomorrow about my father's **will**.
- Yesterday, the lawyer read the contents of the **will**, and nobody was happy!



## 3) to intend / intention (verb / noun) (PT: vontade / intenção / disposição)

- I've **lost the will** to study. (*perdi a vontade*)
- Are you **willing** to run the risk? (*disposto*)
- If it is **God's will**, then I will survive. (*vontade de Deus*)
- It is uncertain if the action was **willed** or not. (*intencional*)
- Will you come with me **willingly**? (*por vontade*)
- He forced me to drive **against my will**. (*contra a minha vontade*)
- He doesn't show **willingness** to perform well. (*disposição / boa vontade*)
- He **willfully** defied the teachers. (*por vontade próprio / intencionalmente*)
- He is an extremely **willful** person. (*obstinado / teimoso / cheio de vontade*)



## 4) Other vocabulary and expressions

- I will succeed, **God willing**. (*se Deus quiser*)
- I got better **by the will of God** (*pela vontade de Deus*)
- He doesn't have the **willpower** to continue. (*força de vontade*)
- The problem of AI is how to give computers **free will**. (*livre arbítrio*)
- Where there's a **will**, there's a way. (*ditado*)
- “Donald Trump is a puppet for the Russians”, **if you will**. (*se você me entende*)

Video: <https://english.insl.com.br/files/videos/If-you-will.mp4> (short)

## The definition of “will” (Wikipedia)

**Will**, within philosophy, is a faculty of the mind. It is as important as “**reason**” and “**understanding**”. It is considered to be central to the field of ethics because of its role in enabling deliberate action. We often say “the human will” or “man's will” to refer to the ability of people to follow and act on their own thoughts and ideas.

**Exercise 1.** The following is an extract from “The Book of Why” by Judea Pearl. The theme of the chapter is AI.

I think that understanding the benefits of the illusion of free will is the key to the stubbornly enigmatic problem of reconciling it with determinism. The problem will dissolve before our eyes once we endow a deterministic machine with the same benefits.

Together with this functional issue, we must also cope with questions of simulation. If neural signals from the brain trigger all our actions, then our brains must be fairly busy decorating some actions with the title “willed” or “intentional” and others with “unintentional.” What precisely is this labeling process? What neural path would earn a given signal the label “willed”?

What are the meanings of the underlined words/phrases?

- 1) “free will” \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) “will dissolve” \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) “willed” (x2) \_\_\_\_\_

**Exercise 2.** The following is an extract from “A Short History of the World” by H. G. Wells (1922). Look at the highlighted sentence which contains the words “will can”. As you know, the future form “will can” doesn’t exist in English. For example:

~~He will can go tomorrow.~~

He **will be able** to go tomorrow.

So can you explain this sentence?

yet we are hardly in the earliest dawn of human greatness. But in the beauty of flower and sunset, in the happy and perfect movement of young animals and in the delight of 10,000 various landscapes, we have some intimations of what life can do for us, and in some few works of plastic and pictorial art, in some great music, in a few noble buildings and happy gardens, we have an intimation of what the human will can do with material possibilities. We have dreams; we have at present unlimited but ever-increasing power. Can we doubt that

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