Language focus 1
Review of future forms

James and Richard are arranging a trip to a football match. Read their telephone conversation below and choose the best future forms in this context. Then listen and check.

**James:** Richard, how're you doing?

**Richard:** Fine, yes. Yourself?

**James:** Yeah, good. Busy.

**Richard:** I'm sure. Listen, the reason I'm calling is (a) I'll take / I'm going to take my nephew Sam to his first football match on Saturday. United (b) are playing / will play City, as I'm sure you know. I just wondered if you fancy coming too?

**James:** I'd love to ... ah, but I've just remembered ... (c) we're having / we'll have lunch over at my mum's on Saturday, so it depends on the time ...

**Richard:** Well, (d) it's going to start / it starts at five ... I've just phoned to check.

**James:** Five o'clock? Hmm ... that means I'd have to leave about half three ... yeah, I'm sure Mum (e) doesn't mind / won't mind if I (f) leave / will leave then ... (g) I'll tell / I'm going to tell her it's something really important. I'm sure (h) she'll understand / she's going to understand.

**Richard:** Well, what could be more important than going to your first football match?

**James:** Exactly. By the way, have you thought about how to get there? (i) Are you going to take / Do you take the train like we did last time?

**Richard:** No, I've decided (j) I'm going to drive / I'll drive. It's easier with my nephew. My sister (k) drops / 's dropping him at my place around three, so that we've got plenty of time. (l) I'm going to pick you up / I'll pick you up from your mum's if you like.

**James:** That would be great. About what time?

**Richard:** We'd better leave about four, in case the traffic (m) is / will be bad.

**James:** Yeah, it's (n) likely to be / unlikely to be pretty busy, I guess. I tell you what, give me a call just before you (o) leave / will leave for Mum's.

**Richard:** Yeah, that's a good idea. Speak to you then.

**James:** Yeah, see you on Saturday.
1. Which two questions below do we usually use to ask people about their plans for Saturday afternoon?
   a. What do you do next Saturday afternoon?
   b. What are you doing next Saturday afternoon?
   c. What will you do next Saturday afternoon?
   d. What are you going to do next Saturday afternoon?

2. What is the difference between these two questions? Which examples in the dialogue express the same idea?
   a. I'm going to take my nephew to his first football match.
   b. I'll tell her it's something really important.

3. Generally, we do not use the Present simple to talk about the future. Why is it used in sentences d, f, m, and o in the dialogue?

4. I'm sure she'll understand. Here will is used to make a prediction. Which other phrases in the dialogue are used to make predictions? Do you know any other phrases like this?

Practice

Complete the gaps with the correct future form of the verbs in brackets.

a. "Have you decided what colour to paint the bathroom?"
   "Yes, we __________ (paint) it yellow. It's such a cheerful colour."

b. "Where __________ (go) for your holidays?"
   "Well, actually we __________ (stay) at home this year. We __________ (buy) a new car this weekend, so can't really afford a holiday."

c. "Have you got a name for the new baby yet?"
   "Well, we __________ (call) her Alice if it __________ (be) a girl, but if it __________ (be) a boy, we don't really know."

d. My train __________ (leave) at 8.55 a.m. tomorrow, so I __________ (have) a really early night.

e. Is it four o'clock already? I don't think we've got time to finish this today - we __________ (finish) it tomorrow morning.

f. The referee looks furious, I think he __________ (send) Ricardo off.

g. "I'm afraid we've run out of today's special."
   "OK, never mind. I __________ (have) the pasta instead."

h. I think I __________ (make) a few extra copies of these notes in case anyone __________ (forget) theirs.

i. We __________ (stay) in a lovely hotel, we had to book it ages ago.

j. He's been ill for a while, but I'm sure Charles __________ (be) okay for his 70th birthday party.