

I'm not a robot



What is the difference between these two? Are both sentences fine? Lucy: If you speak English daily, your English will improve. Lucy: If you speak English daily, your English will be improved. What I think these both are reflecting conditions and the sentence I is used for conditional sentences. "will improve" is how I would say this. By "will be improved", you imply "will be improved by speaking daily"? I think it's too wordy. I think "will improve" is correct but I don't know why. "Will be improved" seems to suggest that there's an external factor causing the improvement. How about this? By joining our training classes intended to boost your confidence, your confidence will improve. By joining our training classes intended to boost your confidence, your confidence will be improved. To me, "will be improved" suggests that your confidence will be improved by our classes. "Will improve" implies a process. You'll start to improve and continue doing so. "Will be improved" refers to a state of being improved. You've improved, and now you're done. The process is over. You do not continue to improve. The reason "will improve" sounds better is because what you're really saying is that the classes will kickstart the process. At the beginning you'll start with low confidence and throughout, it will gradually improve. I'd use either of these: If you join our training classes, your confidence will improve. Your confidence will be improved by our training classes. I'd use either of these: If you join our training classes, your confidence will improve. Your confidence will be improved by our training classes. Hi velisariusin post#1, what difference do you see between "your English will improve" and "your English will be improved", please? We usually prefer the active voice in such cases. If you take our classes, your English will improve. Without practice, my French accent will deteriorate in Germany my German will become perfect. The passive could work if you used a verb that doesn't make such a confident prediction: Your English can be improved if you really work at it. It suggests that there is room for improvement. I will read a book this weekend. It's a similar but seem to imply that you will be reading a book ALL weekend, or most of it. Overall, all the sentences can be used and, on the surface, have almost identical meanings. Hi: (1) I will read a book this weekend. correct; I will attend a class, and in the class, I'm required to read a book by the teacher. Then I will read a book this weekend. (It's a subjective statement of what I will be doing then) another example: Someone will turn 16 this year (It's a fact that cannot be changed) (2) I am going to read a book this weekend. correct; I cannot solve the problem. I'll go to the library, and I'm going to read a book (about this topic) this weekend. (It's a statement of your intention) I am not going to tell you the key (I won't and don't want to tell you the answer) (3) I'm reading a book this weekend --> incorrect (4) I will be reading a book this weekend. correct For your reference only. Best wishes. Will is used for * an immediate decision about what you are going to do * a general prediction Will + continuous is used for * an action that will be in progress some time in the future * an activity that will be happening during a period in the future * an action that will happen because it is regular or decided De going to is used for * a personal intention * a prediction after looking at what is happening now Present continuous is used for fixed plans / arrangements. Present simple is used for unalterable arrangements or facts. In your case, I'm going to read a book this weekend seems to be most appropriate if you just want to tell someone what you intend to do this weekend. If you want to stress that you will spend the whole weekend reading a book, you could say I'll be reading a book this weekend. Thanks for your answers. My main doubt was actually how to use the present continuous for the future. My worksheet provides two example sentences: I'm seeing him tonight. I'm meeting up with her this weekend. So I'm somewhat confused by hly2004's answer that it it doesn't work. I will read a book this weekend. You will read the entire book this weekend. I will be reading a book this weekend. At some point in the weekend, you will be reading a book I'm reading a book this weekend. "I'm reading" means that you are currently reading. Since you can't be currently reading a book in the future ("this weekend"), this is incorrect. I'm going to read a book this weekend. You intend to read an entire book this weekend. Hi, my question is if I can use each of them. Is there any difference between any of these sentences? Thanks in advance. I and 4 are more or less the same meaning (with slightly differing nuances in the INTENT of the sentence) - 2 and 3 are the similar but seem to imply that you will be reading a book ALL weekend, or most of it. Overall, all the sentences can be used and, on the surface, have almost identical meanings. Hi: (1) I will read a book this weekend. correct; I will attend a class, and in the class, I'm required to read a book by the teacher. Then I will read a book this weekend. (It's a subjective statement of what I will be doing then) another example: Someone will turn 16 this year (It's a fact that cannot be changed) (2) I am going to read a book this weekend. correct; I cannot solve the problem. I'll go to the library, and I'm going to read a book (about this topic) this weekend. (It's a statement of your intention) I am not going to tell you the key (I won't and don't want to tell you the answer) (3) I'm reading a book this weekend --> incorrect (4) I will be reading a book this weekend. correct For your reference only. Best wishes. Will is used for * an immediate decision about what you are going to do * a general prediction Will + continuous is used for * an action that will be in progress some time in the future * an activity that will be happening during a period in the future * an action that will happen because it is regular or decided De going to is used for * a personal intention * a prediction after looking at what is happening now Present continuous is used for fixed plans / arrangements. Present simple is used for unalterable arrangements or facts. In your case, I'm going to read a book this weekend seems to be most appropriate if you just want to tell someone what you intend to do this weekend. If you want to stress that you will spend the whole weekend reading a book, you could say I'll be reading a book this weekend. Thanks for your answers. My main doubt was actually how to use the present continuous for the future. My worksheet provides two example sentences: I'm seeing him tonight. I'm meeting up with her this weekend. So I'm somewhat confused by hly2004's answer that it it doesn't work. I will read a book this weekend. You will read the entire book this weekend. I will be reading a book this weekend. At some point in the weekend, you will be reading a book I'm reading a book this weekend. "I'm reading" means that you are currently reading. Since you can't be currently reading a book in the future ("this weekend"), this is incorrect. I'm going to read a book this weekend. You intend to read an entire book this weekend. Hi, my question is if I can use each of them. Is there any difference between any of these sentences? Thanks in advance. I'm reading a book this weekend. "I'm reading" means that you are currently reading. Since you can't be currently reading a book in the future ("this weekend"), this is incorrect. I disagree with this. I'm finding a reference this weekend that proves to you that the present progressive can be used to refer to the future. Although it is perfectly correct to use the present continuous to refer to a future event, I have to admit that the example in question does sound a bit odd, but is nevertheless correct. I think 'I'm going to read a book' or 'I'll be reading a book' would be a more usual way of expressing it. Although it is perfectly correct to use the present continuous to refer to a future event, I have to admit that the example in question does sound a bit odd, but is nevertheless correct. I think 'I'm going to read a book' or 'I'll be reading a book' would be a more usual way of expressing it. I think it can be the most appropriate choice in certain contexts. For example, I would use it if it were a resolute decision made at the time of speaking: A: You're such a couch potato! You never do anything useful. When was the last time you read a book? B: (scratching his head) Him, I can't remember... A: See? B: All right, that's it. I'm reading a book this weekend! A very valid and interesting example. Thanks you three. Is there a rule to obey for using the present progressive to refer to the future? When does it begin to sound natural to you? Are there even situations in which you would prefer the present progressive over the other tenses I stated above? Thanks in advance. If we want to make a statement in near future is it ok to use both? 1. I am going to school tomorrow 2. I'll be going to school tomorrow Is there a rule to obey for using the present progressive to refer to the future? When does it begin to sound natural to you? Are there even situations in which you would prefer the present progressive over the other tenses I stated above? Yes - if it's a resolute decision made at the time of speaking, as in my example above. Some more examples: When I come to your house I'm raiding your refrigerator. (In this context it's used jokingly to mean "that's what's going to happen, whether you like it or not.") We're having chicken for dinner next week. (In this context it indicates our dinner plans.) In both of these examples, I prefer the present progressive to the other possibilities. I don't know if there's a rule, though. I think it can be the most appropriate choice in certain contexts. For example, I would use it if it were a resolute decision made at the time of speaking: A: You're such a couch potato! You never do anything useful. When was the last time you read a book? B: (scratching his head) Him, I can't remember... A: See? B: All right, that's it. I'm reading a book this weekend! In this context, what if I use "be going to" or "will" instead? All right, that's it. I'm going to read a book this weekend! All right, that's it. I will (I'll) read a book this weekend! The limited context provided does not give much clue about whether the speaker wishes to emphasize the decision-making process (will or 'll) determination (going to or emphatic will)- the impact (going to)- and so on. I think it can be the most appropriate choice in certain contexts. For example, I would use it if it were a resolute decision made at the time of speaking: A: You're such a couch potato! You never do anything useful. When was the last time you read a book? B: (scratching his head) Him, I can't remember... A: See? B: All right, that's it. I'm reading a book this weekend! The limited context provided does not give much clue about whether the speaker wishes to emphasize the decision-making process (will or 'll) determination (going to or emphatic will)- the impact (going to)- and so on. This means, in this context, I can use either form and it depends on the thing I want to emphasize. Do I understand correctly what you mean? I guess that by correct you mean a form that a Vietnamese automated test marking machine is likely to mark as correct. I don't think we on this forum can reliably advise you on that, while working together today my colleague mentioned that he got an interview tomorrow. So to ask him the same which one should I have used: When is your interview? When will be your interview? I am sure the first one sounds correct but why can't we use "will be"? Thanks We can't use "will be" because in "When will be your interview?" you have not constructed the sentence correctly: In questions that start with a "Wh-how" interrogative, the word order changes. Can you correct "When will be your interview"? You'd need to alter the word order in the future tense version and ask: "When will your interview be?" But it would sound odd: when talking about events due to take place, especially in the near future, we almost always use the present tense in English. "When is your interview?" (cross-posted) sorry for waking an old post up. What about using the present/future in those sentences? (a) My parents arrive tomorrow - (b) My parents will arrive tomorrow. (c) The room is redecorated tomorrow - (d) The room will be redecorated tomorrow. According to my understanding, you use the simple present when you talk about predetermined events and you use the future simple when you want to talk about something you're sure about. So, according to my understanding, all the 4 sentences should be correct despite (c) sounds strange to me. I know it's a passive sentence, so the question is: is it correct to use the passive simple present to talk about future events? Thanks, Regards. In strict terms, English has two tenses: the past and the present. The modal verbs can then be used to express a prediction in varying degrees of certainty. The context (which is sadly lacking) will inform you. (a) My parents arrive tomorrow - this is a simple statement of fact, made in the way that you understand the circumstances. (b) My parents will arrive tomorrow - this is basically a prediction with a high degree of certainty. (in certain, unlikely contexts, it could be a command.) (c) The room is redecorated tomorrow - this is a simple statement of fact, made in the way that you understand the circumstances. (d) The room will be redecorated tomorrow -> this can range from a command to a prediction with a high degree of certainty. What about using the present/future in those sentences? (a) My parents arrive tomorrow - (b) My parents will arrive tomorrow. (c) The room is redecorated tomorrow - (d) The room will be redecorated tomorrow. According to my understanding, you use the simple present when you talk about predetermined events and you use the future simple when you want to talk about something you're sure about. So, according to my understanding, all the 4 sentences should be correct despite (c) sounds strange to me. I know it's a passive sentence, so the question is: is it correct to use the passive simple present to talk about future events? Well, I stand by the answer I gave last year in post #3, about events due to take place in the near future, and in the course of casual conversation I wouldn't personally use the future tense in (b) or (d). I agree with you that (c) sounds odd in the sentence as it stands, and in that one I'd use the present continuous and say (c1) The room is being redecorated tomorrow. A: "How do you see things going?" B: "First we do the bathroom, [points] the room is decorated tomorrow, and the next day we do the stairs and the landing." A: "How do you see things going?" B: "First we do the bathroom, [points] the room is decorated tomorrow, and the next day we do the stairs and the landing." Sorry, but I still think that sounds odd. I'd say: "First we do the bathroom; [points] that room is being decorated tomorrow, and the next day we do the stairs and the landing, that room is being decorated tomorrow, That differs markedly from "the room is decorated tomorrow." Your version does not suggest who might be decorating the room - someone else might be doing it; my version keeps the agent "we/by us." My version boils down to a list of simple statements of fact, given in that form for clarity. They are a plan - an order of events. None of the actions in my version are in the continuous. This is because the simple verb indicates the completed action, whereas the continuous form refers to the process. Introducing the continuous would be wrong as the parallelism is lost. Last edited: Jul 17, 2018 We need context to justify c), which looks very wrong at first sight and is not an alternative option for d). The important point is the various functions of verb form. In other words, a "tense" may have several uses. "It is redecorated" is the simple present of "be" followed by a past participle used as an adjective, to describe the condition, or "state" of the room. There is no action, change or movement involved. The verb is used in a stative way. The passive present continuous verb plus past participle, can like the active present continuous, be used for future plans which are, or have been, already arranged. Plans: not orders, predictions or promises or decisions that have only just been made. Last edited: Jul 17, 2018 We need context to justify c), which looks very wrong at first sight and is not an alternative option for d). The important point is the various functions of verb form. In other words, a "tense" may have several uses. "It is redecorated" is the simple present of "be" followed by a past participle used as an adjective, to describe the condition, or "state" of the room. There is no action, change or movement involved. The verb is used in a stative way. The passive present continuous verb plus past participle, can like the active present continuous, be used for future plans which are, or have been, already arranged. Plans: not orders, predictions or promises or decisions that have only just been made. So, are you saying that I'm not able to make future plans using the simple present with stative verbs? With verbs which are used in a stative way, as this is. I doubt that/whether/if he'll come. I doubt that/whether/if it was what he wanted. I do not doubt that/if/whether he will succeed. Which conjunction in the above samples should I use and why? This is confusing me when I use doubt in my samples. Is there a rule of thumb or something that I can go by? Thanks. I doubt if he'll come. I doubt whether it was what he wanted. I do not doubt that he will succeed. Thanks, Pricess, for your excellent answer. By the way, what is the tip or rules of thumb in this usage? Hello, As far as I remember from my university lectures, in negative statements doubt is followed by that. In other statements it's followed by if or whether. However, I read somewhere or other that for some speakers it is the latter that is the only correct form. In my opinion doubt should not be used either with if, nor with whether. If is a conditional, so there is already doubt, and whether is an alternative which should always be used with or. I doubt (that) he will do it = He probably won't do it. I don't doubt (that) he will do it = He probably will do it. 1. I doubt that he'll come. 2. I doubt whether he'll come. 3. I doubt if he'll come. 4. I don't doubt that he'll come. I think all of them are correct. Could they be wrong? Hi there, I learnt the same as Audioliak: Declarative sentences: Economists doubt whether interest rates will fall in the near future. I doubt if she'll come this evening. Ther directors doubt that new machinery is really necessary. Negative: I don't doubt that there will be more problems. (All the examples above are taken from Swan's Practical English Usage.) In addition, Swan mentions a third option: no conjunction (in informal style): I doubt he'll have enough money for a holiday. Last edited: May 28, 2009 Declarative sentences: Economists doubt whether interest rates will fall in the near future. I doubt if she'll come this evening. Ther directors doubt that new machinery is really necessary. Negative: I don't doubt that there will be more problems. (All the examples above are taken from Swan's Practical English Usage.) In addition, Swan mentions a third option: no conjunction (in informal style): I doubt he'll have enough money for a holiday. Negative: I don't doubt that there will be more problems.= I'm sure there will be more problems - This sentence seems to focus on the actual prediction, rather than the speaker's doubts I don't doubt if/whether there will be more problems. - This sentence looks more like a response to the question "Do you doubt if/whether there will be more problems?" and as such rather focuses on whether or not the speaker is actually in doubt. Or is the second one grammatically/logically unacceptable at all? Or is the second one grammatically/logically unacceptable at all? Each will have his own preferences of course, but I have to say that for me the if/whether option really is logically unacceptable. What does if add, and what whether? I doubt if he will come sounds like a double doubt the speaker is doubting the conditional, so perhaps it should mean I suppose so that he will come. But that of course would not be the generally understood meaning of the phrase: people would normally take it to mean the opposite. The expression with whether is even more... er, doubtful. The word whether is usually accompanied by or or not, and even if neither of these additions is stated, one or the other is implied. So what does this mean: I doubt whether he will come (or not)? It rather sounds to me as if the speaker of that isnt much interested one way or the other. In a nutshell, then, the way I see it is: I doubt if... means I suppose so... I doubt whether... means I couldn't care less... (Don't worry though; over the years I've got used to people using doubt if and doubt whether, and I do know, now, what they [the people] and they [the expressions] really mean!) From the OED: doubtwith clause, introduced by whether, if, that. (Often with but, but that, when the main clause is negative or interrogative) The earliest examples are with whether (from the 14th century). The first doubt that is dated 1871: clearly a modern development New Fowler's Modern English Usage tells us more. With a positive main clause, whether is normal, less commonly if: I doubt whether ... With a negative main clause, that is normal: I don't doubt that ... BUT! Increasingly, since the last quarter of the 19c or so, doubt has also come to be construed in affirmative sentences in about equal measure either with a that-clause or with a conjunction: "I doubt that such an obscure subject would be found fascinating. Who can doubt there will be penguins following. Thats really interesting, panjandrum! wasnt at all familiar with the etymology and evolution. In view these facts, I'll add one comment to my earlier post (perhaps you can guess...?): Of the many changes that the language has undergone over the years, the evolution of this expression is one of the very few which makes sense and is for the better. (Excuse me while I don my flak jacket.) In my opinion doubt should not be used either with if, nor with whether. If is a conditional, so there is already doubt, and whether is an alternative which should always be used with or: I doubt (that) he will do it = He probably won't do it. I don't doubt (that) he will do it = He probably will do it. I doubt whether he will do it = I think we have not. I don't doubt we'll have enough money for a holiday = I don't think we have not. So does "I don't doubt that there will be more problems" = There will be more problems? I doubt we'll have enough money for a holiday = I think we have not. I don't doubt we'll have enough money for a holiday = I don't think we have not. So does "I don't doubt that there will be more problems" = There will be more problems? Yes, it means I am confident there will be more problems. The rule I follow is this: (a) When doubt is being expressed, then there is logically a question in the mind: the speaker is not certain of the facts or the outcome. In this case, the correct conjunction is 'whether', which is the standard conjunction to introduce an indirect 'yes or no' question. Example: 'I doubt whether the plan will succeed'. Pace johndot, there is no need for a following 'or' to be expressed; we understand the sentence as meaning: 'I am not certain whether the plan will succeed or not'. In colloquial use, in such cases, we tend to say 'if in place of 'whether'. 'I doubt if the plan will succeed'. This ought not to be done in correct written English. (b) When we put the verb 'to doubt' in the negative, then doubt is not being expressed: on the contrary, we are expressing confident belief. In this case, we are dealing not with a question but a statement and we use the conjunction 'that': 'I do not doubt that the plan will succeed'. In case (b), the traditional usage is 'I do not doubt but that the plan will succeed'. This may seem old-fashioned nowadays; however, I cannot say but what I do not trot it out from time to time. Correct written English by famous writers is full of examples of I doubt if... to mean I think it unlikely that... There actually seem to be two slightly different meanings for "I doubt". The first might express doubt, as in "I doubt if the plan will succeed", but for some reason it doesn't sound quite right, perhaps due to the fact you would rarely say such a thing. You'd probably be more likely to say "I'm afraid the plan won't succeed", "I wonder if/whether it will succeed", or something like that. The second meaning, as in "I doubt (that) the plan will succeed", expresses pessimism more than doubt. Can anybody confirm that I'm not mistaken? Also, could anybody explain the following formulation in wandle's last post: however, I cannot say but what I do not trot it out from time to time. I understand the meaning but the syntax not entirely. Didn't he mean to write "I cannot say but that..."? All the examples above are talking about the future for example, 'I doubt the he will come'. Can doubt be used to talk about the past in the same way: 1) I doubt that he actually passed his exam. (I suspect that he did not pass) 2) I doubted that he wouldn't pass his exam. (He failed and I suspected that he would fail)

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