

- Our grandparents **are visiting** us this Christmas.
- Sorry, I can't stay after school today; I'm **playing** tennis with Jun-Sik.
- My sister's **going** to the dentist tomorrow.
- I'm **not returning** home for the holidays, so I can come to your party after all!
- **Are** you **doing** anything on Sunday morning?
- Do you know if he **is going** to the dance with Maiko next week?

Scheduled events

The *present simple* tense is usually used to refer to future events that are scheduled (and outside of our control).

- Hurry up! The train **departs** in 10 minutes.
- I **leave** Frankfurt at 5 o'clock in the morning and **arrive** in New York at midnight the next day.
- She **has** an appointment with the headmaster after school today.
- There's no need to hurry. The train **doesn't leave** for another 30 minutes.
- When **does** the meeting **begin**?

This is a very difficult aspect of English grammar. Learners who want a deeper understanding should consult a good grammar reference such as *Swan's Practical English Usage*.

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Page 2 of 2