Taaldus

DUTCH VERBS · CHEAT SHEET

Talking About the Future

Gaan + infinitive, *zullen* + infinitive, or simply the present tense with a time expression.

How to form it

Formula: auxiliary, conjugated for the subject, + infinitive at the very end of the sentence. The infinitive itself never changes shape:

1. Pick a construction: *gaan* for a plan, *zullen* for a promise or prediction.
2. Conjugate the auxiliary for the subject, the same way you would any other verb: *ik ga*, *hij gaat*, *wij gaan*.
3. Add the infinitive at the very end of the clause: *Ik ga morgen werken.*

Pronoun	WITH GAAN werken	WITH ZULLEN groeien
ik	**ga** werken	**zal** groeien
jij, u	**gaat** werken	**zal** / zult groeien
hij, zij, het	**gaat** werken	**zal** groeien
wij, jullie, zij	**gaan** werken	**zullen** groeien

Choosing *gaan* or *zullen*

Gaan + infinitive is the most common way to talk about the future in spoken Dutch: personal plans and predictions you can see coming. *Het gaat regenen.* (It's going to rain.)

Zullen + infinitive sounds more formal: promises, suggestions and predictions. *Ik zal het niet vergeten.* (I won't forget it.)

*Ik **ga** morgen in het ziekenhuis **werken**.*

I'm going to work in the hospital tomorrow.

Or just use the present tense

Present tense + a time expression covers scheduled events and timetables, with no auxiliary at all. *De trein vertrekt om 10 uur.* (The train leaves at 10 o'clock.)

Zullen doesn't follow the regular pattern

Most verbs get a regular *-t* ending for *jij/u* and *hij/zij/het*, but *zullen* is irregular: its *ik*-form is *zal*, not *zalt*, and *jij* can take either *zult* or *zal*.

With *jij* both *zult* and *zal* are correct; with *u*, *zal* is the usual polite choice (*u zult* also occurs).

Common mistakes

Don't leave the infinitive earlier in the sentence the way English does. *Ik ga kopen een huis volgende week* is wrong: everything after the auxiliary moves to the very end, giving *Ik ga volgende week een huis kopen.*

Zullen looks like the English 'will', so learners reach for it by default. In everyday spoken Dutch, *gaan* or the present tense usually sounds more natural; save *zullen* for promises, predictions and more formal moments.

Practice the future in the Verb Quiz
taaldus.com/verb-conjugation-quiz

Full explanation
taaldus.com/verb-grammar/future-tense