FUTURE FORMS

mindmap by D.Potter - 20160413

PAST

FUTURE

NOW

PRESENT CONTINUOUS

I'm meeting an important client at 2pm

arrangement has already been made

decision is definite

clearer future than 'going to'

WOULD

He said he would come

reported speech

future seen from the past

PRESENT SIMPLE

regular event

Planes for London leave at 10am

timetable

talking about a (regular) future event

My plane leaves tomorrow at 10am

habit (repeated action)

He will have 2 cups of coffee before going to work

WILL

The phone rings. I'll answer

decision now

make offers & promises

make predictions

We'll need more equipment

if + 1st conditional

We'll sign the contract if all goes well

We will have results by the end of the year

main clause is about the future

+ adverbial clauses introduced by time conjunctions

after, before, when, until, once...

When you see him, tell him to call me

When you get there, you'll find a letter for you

MAY / MIGHT / CAN / COULD

certainty

possibility

We may buy a new car

GOING TO

It's going to rain

visible evidence

We are going to buy a new car this year

less clear future than present continuous

intentions

future plans

decision has already been taken

We are going to talk about a new contract