

THE USE OF A PRAGMATIC-BASED APPROACH TO TEACHING THE FUTURE TENSE IN MEDICAL ENGLISH FOR PROFESSIONAL PURPOSES

Keywords: *English for Professional Purposes, pragmatic-based approach, professionally-oriented training, integrative approach, the future tense.*

Teaching professional English at a medical university stipulates a pragmatically meaningful direction of classroom activities. That is to say, training material must be embedded in the professionally-oriented resources, which students will encounter in their future occupational setting [1; 3]. In such a manner, essential job-related skills, experience and professional readiness are fostered. This is particularly relevant for teaching grammar material, such as verb tenses, which must not be separated from a feasible occupational background. Therefore, the present paper focuses on the methods for effective mastering the future tense on the basis of a pragmatic-based approach in the process of training undergraduates, Ph.D. students, academic and clinical teachers at a medical university. The results of the research have been integrated into the 1st edition of *Medical English for Academic Purposes* by Yu. Lysanets, O. Bieliaieva, M. Melaschenko (2018) [2], which focuses on improving the communication skills of medical professionals. We developed the linguo-didactic mechanisms for organizing the training material and delivering the course of Medical English for Professional Purposes. The proposed system of training tasks is intended to support courses in professional English at higher medical educational institutions in teaching and revising the grammar material on the future simple (indefinite) tense, the future continuous (progressive) tense, and the future perfect tense. In this paper, we present several sample tasks from our methodological database.

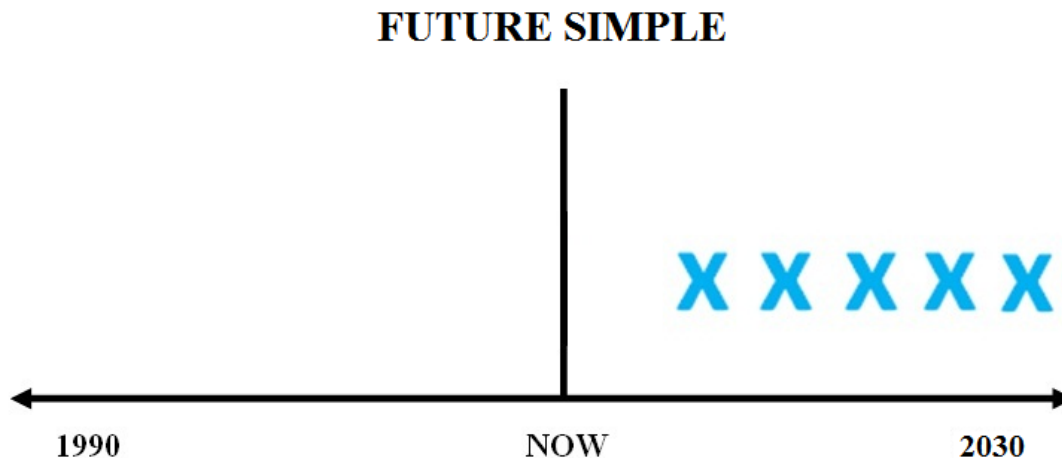
First of all, students are suggested to revise the specified grammar material. In each case, future tenses are illustrated by relevant examples from the areas of medicine and healthcare. Next, students deal with a well-defined set of tasks, gradually covering receptive, reproductive and productive aspects of teaching. The suggested methodological algorithm is feasible for both oral and written communication, as well as for in-class or self-paced learning, depending on the features of the curriculum and students' English proficiency.

Sample tasks:

GRAMMAR REVISION

FUTURE SIMPLE (INDEFINITE) TENSE

The FUTURE SIMPLE is used to describe a future happening or a future situation.



Will + bare infinitive (without particle “to”)

E.g.:

- I **will send** you a copy of the latest article on oral cancer as soon as I get it.
- She **will attend** the European Congress next year.
- Dentistry **will be** very different in a hundred years' time.

NB! In modern English “will” may be used in all cases: *I, we, he, she, it, you, they.*

For 1 person singular and plural (“I”, “we”), one may also use “shall” – primarily in suggestion and offer questions:

- **Shall we go** to the symposium?
- **Shall we try** this new medicine and see what happens?
- **Shall I go** and see what’s happening?

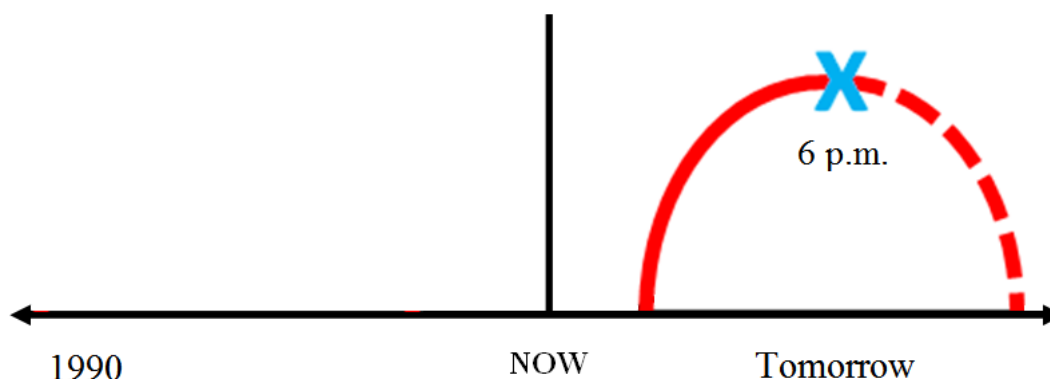
Ex. 1. Read and translate the sentences:

1. We will go to the symposium next week.
2. They will take an exam in anatomy next term.
3. When will your paper come out?
4. Who will make the report on this problem?
5. This case looks difficult for you. I will help you.
6. Can I have the book back I lent you? – Of course, I’ll give it back tomorrow.
7. Ask him if you can use his stethoscope. He will lend it to you.
8. I promise I will send you the latest article on AIDS as soon as I get it.
9. I guess I will see you at the next annual meeting.
10. This first-year student will graduate from the Academy in 5 years’ time.
11. Next year they will start a new research project on immunology.
12. The medicine of the future will no longer be remedial, it will be preventative.

FUTURE CONTINUOUS (PROGRESSIVE) TENSE

The FUTURE CONTINUOUS describes a planned or predicted event at a certain time in the future *the next day, the whole day tomorrow, tomorrow at 10 p.m., tomorrow from 10 to 11 a.m.)*

FUTURE CONTINUOUS



Formation: **Will be** + **-ing** form of the main verb.

E.g.:

- She **will be** attending this conference.
- We **will be** living in Kyiv next year.

The meaning can be qualified or specified by additional words in the sentence:

- This time tomorrow morning he **will be attending** the conference on medications and the CNS.
- I **will be examining** this patient tomorrow from 3 to 4 p.m.

Ex. 2. Put the verbs in brackets into the future continuous:

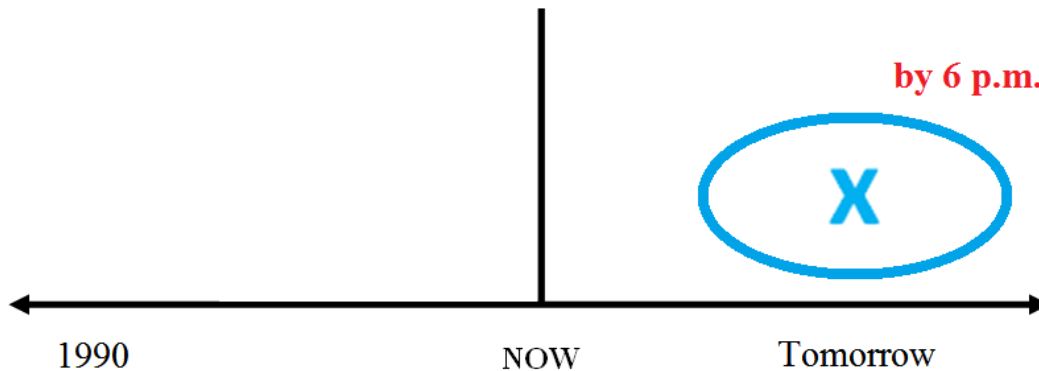
1. I (*to read*) _____ the whole day tomorrow.
2. Tomorrow morning I (*to attend*) _____ the clinic.
3. At 10 a.m. tomorrow he (*to take*) _____ an exam in anatomy.
4. This term the first-year students (*to learn*) the functions of the skeletal system.
5. The surgeon (*to operate*) _____ on this patient at 11 o'clock tomorrow.
6. I (*to examine*) _____ the patient's heart and lungs again before starting the operation.
7. The lecturer (*to show*) _____ the new film on the functions of the vertebral column from 2 till 3 o'clock tomorrow.

8. The scientist (*to conduct*) ___ his experiment on bone growth.

FUTURE PERFECT TENSE

The FUTURE PERFECT is used to describe the result of an action before a certain time in the future (*by the end of the next week, by the 1st of May, by 6 o'clock*).

FUTURE PERFECT



Will have + past participle of the verb

E.g.:

- I **will have completed** my PhD thesis by 2020.
- Your doctor **will have prescribed** the dose suitable for your individual condition by the end of the week.
- You **will have received** the schedule by 5 o'clock tomorrow.

Ex. 3. Read and translate the sentences:

1. I think the doctor will have arrived by the time we begin the operation.
2. By next spring I will have written a textbook for foreign students.
3. Dr. Smith will have prepared her report on this problem by 2 p.m.
4. I will have written the research paper by the 1st of March.
5. By 2020, the number of people over 60 will have grown to one billion.

6. By 2500, doctors will have found cures for AIDS and cancer; robots will have replaced humans in most surgical operations; mankind will have found a way to eradicate health inequalities and poverty.
7. By 2030, our country will have developed a sustainable healthcare system.
8. Since the complications are minor and temporary, the patient will have recovered by the next week.
9. I will have published my research findings by the end of the month.

COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Ex. 18. Complete your agenda for tomorrow. Tell the colleagues about your schedule and ask them some questions using Future Simple, Future Continuous and Future Perfect tenses.

E.g.: What will you do tomorrow? What will you be doing tomorrow from 10 to 11 a.m.? What will you have done by 14 p.m. tomorrow?

The first line has been filled for you as an example:

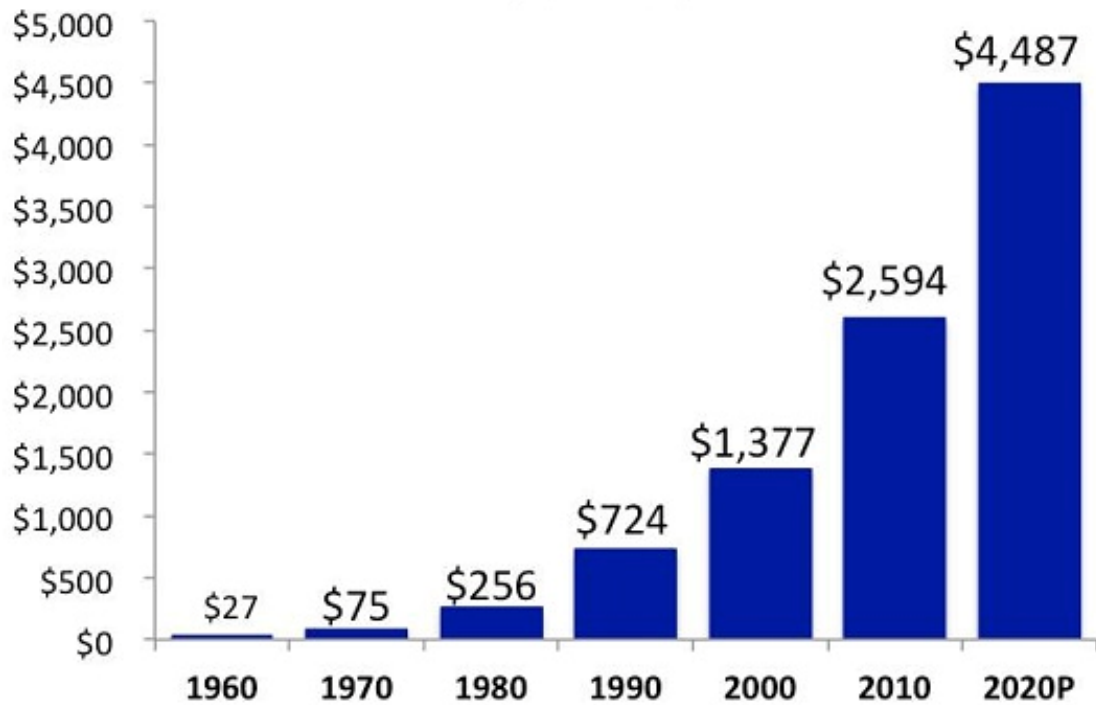
TO-DO LIST:

When	What to do?
7:00-8:00	<i>cook and eat breakfast</i>

Ex. 19. Describe the bar chart given below. Write at least 150 words. You should spend about 20 minutes on this task:

Healthcare Costs 1960 – 2020

(In Billions)



Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services 2012 California Healthcare Foundation

(Source:

<http://www.financialsense.com/sites/default/files/users/u567/images/2015/healthcare-costs.png>)

Ex. 20. Think about the future prospects in your specialty and answer the questions:

1. What will medicine have achieved by the year 2100?

2. What will scientists have discovered by that time?

3. What will researchers have invented by then?

4. What level will health care have reached by that time?

The didactic purposes of the tasks: a) revising the use and formation of the future tenses; b) practicing the use of the future simple (indefinite) tense, the future continuous (progressive) tense, and the future perfect tense; c) developing the writing and translation skills for professionally-oriented purposes; d) mastering new English medical terms and professional vocabulary to form the future tenses.

Thus, the use of a pragmatic-based approach to teaching the future tenses at a medical university is highly effective to foster essential job-related skills, experience and professional readiness. The authors believe that this, in turn, will promote academic mobility and scientific cooperation, thus contributing to the development of higher medical education in Ukraine, which renders the research relevant.

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Анотація

У статті представлено методи формування навичок утворення та вживання майбутнього часу в процесі викладання курсу фахової англійської мови в закладах вищої освіти, які здійснюють підготовку фахівців галузі знань 22 «Охорона здоров'я». Авторами вироблена власна концепція викладу навчального матеріалу. Пропонований підхід апробовано при розробці підручника “Medical English for Academic Purposes” (2018). Розроблено лінгводидактичні механізми, спрямовані на розвиток, відпрацювання і систематизацію навичок вживання майбутнього часу в англійській мові на основі прагматичного підходу.

Summary

The present paper explores the methods for effective mastering the future tense in the process of training undergraduates, Ph.D. students, academic and clinical teachers at a medical university. The results of the research have been integrated into the 1st edition of Medical English for Academic Purposes by Yu. Lysanets, O. Bieliaieva, M. Melaschenko (2018). The authors developed the linguo-didactic mechanisms to support courses in professional English at higher medical educational institutions by teaching and revising the grammar material on the basis of a pragmatic-based approach.