



Live from London podcasts

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Level: Upper intermediate
Age: Teenagers / adults
Time needed: 45 minutes (approx)
Language and skills: Ways of talking about the future; listening for the main idea.



Warm up

1. Think of three memorable things from the past year (these could be personal things for you or your family that you are willing to share, or memorable news events). Tell students that you are thinking back over the past year. Explain that you are going to tell them about these things and that for the moment they should just listen.

When you finish, ask students to work in pairs and recap, orally, what you have just said. Do some whole-class feedback on this. Then distribute the first worksheet and instruct students to do the same.

2. For the second activity of the warm up, tell students to choose the box that is most suitable (if the lesson is before December 31 or after) and to ask and answer the questions.

Listening

3. Explain that the students are going to hear people in London talking about their New Year's resolutions. Explain (if this is uncommon in your students' country) that in the UK and America there is a tradition of making a New Year's Resolution. Direct students to the listening exercise for some typical resolutions. Play the recording once and let students tick the topics they hear about.

Answers:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Travelling ✓ | Keeping in touch with friends ✓ |
| Finishing school | Living ethically ✓ |
| Learning a language ✓ | Playing a sport ✓ |
| Quitting smoking ✓ | Playing an instrument |
| Going on a diet | Visiting family ✓ |
| Getting a job | Volunteering ✓ |

Language

4. and 5. Direct students' attention to the information in the box and make sure they are familiar with the terms. Then play the listening again, pausing after each speaker. Ask students to decide which grammar the speakers used. If this seems too difficult for the students, then provide a copy of the tapescript for them to consult.

Answers:

- Speaker 2: Infinitive
- Speaker 3: going to (gonna)
- Speaker 4: would like to
- Speaker 5: would like to (-'d like to)
- Speaker 6: Infinitive
- Speaker 7: Present continuous; will
- Speaker 8: want to; present simple; will
- Speaker 10: Present simple
- Speaker 11: would like to
- Speaker 12: Infinitive
- Speaker 13: going to

Speaker 1, 9 and 10 are in fact using an elided (not spoken) form of will. This is not unusual in spoken English.

6. Ask students to tell each other any resolutions or plans they have for the new year – encourage them to use different structures to do this.

Writing

7. An optional follow up to this lesson is to create a class mini time capsule. For this activity you need a box of some kind (a shoebox will do).



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Tell students to cut out and complete the class *time capsule* form. They must write predictions for each of the categories for things that they think will happen before the end of the course (if the course ends in June and you do this class in January, this would be predictions for the following six months only). Tell them to do this individually. When they have finished, ask them to fold the paper in two and put it in the box.

Note: if you have a digital camera, you could take a photo of the class and put it in the box too.

Seal the box with tape and put it aside. Explain that you will all open the box to check your predictions at the end of the course.

At the end of the course:

Hold a mini ceremony to open the time capsule. Distribute the papers to each student (without reading them) and ask them to reread their predictions. Were they right on any of them? Tell them to compare the ones they wish to share with a partner – then do some whole-class feedback. Who had the most interesting/accurate/funny predictions?





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Warm up

1. Think of the past year. Make a note of three things that were important to you. These could be:
 - things that happened to you
 - world events that affected you

When you are ready, work with a partner. Tell your partner your three things.

2. Choose one of the boxes. Ask and answer the questions.

BEFORE DECEMBER 31

What are you going to do on December 31st?
Who are you going to spend it with?
Where are you going to go?

AFTER JANUARY 1

What did you do on December 31st?
Who did you spend it with?
Where did you go?
What did you do the next day?



Listening

3. Listen to 13 people talk about their plans for the year ahead. Tick the topics you hear.

Travelling	Playing a sport	Finishing school
Learning a language	Living ethically	Keeping in touch with friends
Quitting smoking	Playing an instrument	Going on a diet
Getting a job	Visiting family	Volunteering

Language

4. Look at the different ways that the speakers express their future plans and intentions.

would like to/want to + verb: I want to eat more vegetables. I'd like to learn an instrument

going to + verb: I'm going to visit my brother. I'm gonna stop smoking.

will: I will travel next year. I will probably not make a resolution.

Present continuous: I'm quitting smoking. I'm joining a gym.

Infinitive: to stop smoking, to travel etc.

5. Listen again and decide how each speaker expresses their future plans and intentions from the list above.

6. Look at the activities in exercise three above. Which ones would you like to do this year? Do you have any other resolutions for the New Year? Tell a partner.



Writing

1. Listen to the teacher's instructions and complete the form with plans and intentions for the next year.
2. When you have finished, put them in the container the teacher hands round the class.



Class time capsule

Name:

Predictions

You:

The class:

Your city:

The world:



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Transcript

Introduction

Welcome to onestopenglish's *Live from London* podcast. In *Live from London*, we go to different parts of London to ask locals and visitors questions about their daily lives. Today, *Live from London* reports from the South Bank. We asked people the question: "Do you have a New Year's resolution for next year?"

Speaker 1 (male, UK)

New Year's resolutions? Well, probably think about going on a bit of a tour of the world next year, possibly. Couple of months, you never know, see what happens.

Speaker 2 (female, UK)

My New Year's resolution is to play more hockey.

Speaker 3 (female, USA)

Yes, I'm gonna go to Spain more often to visit my sister, that's my New Year's resolution – I'm gonna travel more.

Speaker 4 (female, Germany)

I would like to learn juggling next year.

Speaker 5 (male, Australia)

I guess the biggest thing is I'm, I'm terrible at emailing people. I'm really bad at staying in touch when I'm travelling and overseas. Um, so I'd really like to keep in touch with my friends and family more, um, and just make a bit more of an effort, I think.

Speaker 6 (female, USA)

So, I'm currently visiting my brother and Heather in London. They just moved here from the United States and I guess one of my resolutions is to travel more next year.

Speaker 7 (female, Germany)

Um, [interruption] other speaker: learning Vietnamese [end of interruption] yeah, okay! I have to learn Vietnamese, uh, very well because I am going to Vietnam for a year to do my field research for my PhD and, uh, it's not so easy. But I think, uh, I will manage.

Speaker 8 (male, Ireland)

For this year, the usual, I want to give up cigarettes and try and be nicer to other people. I'd say, that's pretty much it really. Oh, and start going to the gym a little bit more, the usual. But I don't know how many of them I'll actually do.

Speaker 9 (female, USA)

Hi, I'm from Philadelphia and my New Year's resolution is, like most New Years, I'm resolved to be unresolved, and not pick anything to do.

Speaker 10 (female, UK)

New Year's resolutions? Uh, try and live more ethically.





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Transcript

Speaker 11 (male, Czech Republic)

So, I'm from Prague and I don't like make New Year's resolutions 'cos I don't believe in it. But, maybe that in the next year I would like to stop smoking and maybe start to travel a lot to Eastern Europe and so on. Okay?

Speaker 12 (female, UK)

Yes, to spend more time in London appreciating the city: walking along the South Bank, going to the Tate, doing what I've done today.

Speaker 13 (female, UK)

Well, in January on the 14th, I'm going to be a volunteer in an AIDS orphanage in South Africa, because I'm retiring and um, going there for six months or more. And then I am not sure what I am going to do after that, so I'm just really changing my life.

