

**POUVOIR je pourrai, tu pourras, il pourra, nous pourrons, vous pourrez, ils pourront**

**REVIEW: THE NEAR FUTURE (= future proche)**

**formation**   
There are two future tenses in French, the [simple future](http://laits.utexas.edu/tex/gr/taf2.html) and the near future (**le futur proche**). The futur proche is usually translated into English as **going** + infinitive (e.g., going to eat, going to drink, going to talk). The futur proche is characteristic of spoken French but may be used in informal writing. It is formed with the verb [aller](http://laits.utexas.edu/tex/gr/virr4.html" \o "jump to virr4) (to go) conjugated in the present tense followed by an infinitive.   
http://laits.utexas.edu/tex/images/gr/transdot.gif

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|  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | **nager**  **'to swim'** | | | je **vais nager**, I am going to swim | nous **allons nager**, we are going to swim | | tu **vas nager**, you are going to swim | vous **allez nager**, you are going to swim | | il, elle / on **va nager**, he, she (it) / one is going to swim | ils / elles **vont nager**, they are going to swim | |

http://laits.utexas.edu/tex/images/gr/transdot.gif  
To negate the futur proche, place **ne ... pas** around the conjugated form of **aller**: Je **ne** vais **pas** nager. (I am not going to swim).   
http://laits.utexas.edu/tex/images/gr/transdot.gif

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|  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | Corey: Je **vais aller** à Barton Springs. J'adore l'eau. Je **vais nager**. Tu viens avec moi, Bette? |  | Corey: I am going to go to Barton Springs. I love water. I am going to swim. Are you coming with me, Bette? | | Bette: Tu es fou! Il fait trop froid! Je **ne** vais **pas** nager! |  | Bette: Are you crazy? It is too cold! I am not going to swim! | |

http://laits.utexas.edu/tex/images/gr/transdot.gif  
**uses**   
The futur proche is used to refer to most future events in informal conversation. For details on usage see [future: usage](http://laits.utexas.edu/tex/gr/taf4.html).   
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**futur proche vs. futur simple** 

The two tenses are virtually interachangeable in most contexts, especially in spoken French.

So what is the difference?

In general, **the two tenses differ in their level of formality**; the future proche is used in more informal contexts and the simple future in more formal contexts. Thus, the futur proche is primarily used in speech and less frequently in writing.

**The two tenses also differ in their relative distance to the present moment**. The future proche typically refers to a time very close to the present moment, i.e, the near or immediate future. The futur simple, on the other hand, is often used for events in the more distant future.

Salut Bob ! Ça va ? Qu’est-ce que **tu vas faire** ce week end ?

 = ***Informal context used in speech + refers to a time close to the present moment***

Quand **je serai** grand, **je serai** astronaute.

Après l’université, **il fera** le tour du monde

= ***More distant future, projects, goals***

Bob tu es puni! Oh non… **Je ne le ferai plus**… promis **j’arriverai** à l’heure maintenant !

= ***Promises, resolutions***