

Future Tense in Kurmanji Kurdish

Dema Dahatû di Kurmancî de

A visual English-language workbook with Kurmanji examples, future paradigms, negation, exercises and answers.

FINAL EDITION

Person	Future form	English
ez	Ez ê biçim.	I will go
tu	Tu yê biçî.	You will go
ew	Ew ê biçê.	He/she will go
em	Em ê biçin.	We will go
hûn	Hûn ê biçin.	You (plural) will go
ew	Ew ê biçin.	They will go

Learning objectives — Ar Mancên fêrbûnê

Understand common future-time expressions in Kurmanji; form future sentences with ê/dê and non-indicative verb forms; distinguish future from present and past; negate future clauses; ask questions; and practice planning and predictions.

01 / Future time and tense — Dema dahatû

Kurmanji can refer to the future using a future particle and an appropriate verb form. Present-tense forms can also refer to scheduled or predictable future events when the context makes the time clear. Do not assume that every English “will” has one mechanically equivalent Kurmanji form.

02 / The core future pattern — Avakirina dema dahatû

A useful standard-oriented pattern is **subject + ê + subjunctive-form verb**. For example: **Ez ê biçim.** — I will go. **Tu yê biçî.** — You will go. **Ew ê biçe.** — He/she will go. The future marker also occurs as **dê** in many varieties and written texts. The choice and position of the marker can vary regionally; this lesson uses the ê pattern for its main paradigm.

03 / Future paradigm: çûn — Çekim: çûn

The verb **çûn** (to go) uses the non-indicative stem **ç-** with **bi-** in these examples. The future marker and verb endings vary with the subject. Notice **tu yê** rather than simply **tu ê** in the paradigm below.

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ez	Ez ê biçim.	I will go
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04 / Present versus future — Dema niha û dahatû

Compare **Ez diçim.** (I go / am going) with **Ez ê biçim.** (I will go). The indicative commonly uses **di-**, while this future pattern uses a non-indicative form often marked by **bi-**. Some verbs have irregular subjunctive stems or omit **bi-**, so avoid applying a single prefix rule indiscriminately.

Present indicative	Future construction
Ez diçim.	Ez ê biçim.

Present indicative	Future construction
Ez dixwînim.	Ez ê bixwînim.
Em diaxivîn.	Em ê biaxivîn.

05 / More useful verbs — Lêkerên din

Ez ê bixwînim. — I will read. **Ez ê bibînim.** — I will see. **Ez ê bikim.** — I will do it (context determines the object). **Ez ê binivîsim.** — I will write. **Em ê biaxivîn.** — We will speak. These examples illustrate common non-indicative patterns, but verb-specific morphology must be learned.

06 / Negative future — Neyîniya dema dahatû

A common way to negate a future subjunctive construction is with **ne-** on the verb: **Ez ê neçim.** — I will not go. **Ez ê nexwînim.** — I will not read. **Em ê neçin.** — We will not go. Do not transfer the indicative negative **na-** automatically to these forms. Some lexical and regional patterns differ.

Affirmative future	Negative future
Ez ê biçim.	Ez ê neçim.
Em ê biçin.	Em ê neçin.
Ez ê bixwînim.	Ez ê nexwînim.

07 / Questions — Pirsên dema dahatû

Yes/no questions may be indicated by intonation: **Tu yê biçî?** — Will you go? **Hûn ê biçin?** — Will you (plural) go? Question words can be added: **Tu yê kengî biçî?** — When will you go? **Tu yê li ku bixwîni?** — Where will you study/read? In naturally occurring speech, word order and particle choices may vary.

08 / Future-time words — Peyvên dema dahatû

sibê — tomorrow; **piştî vê** — after this; **hefteya bê** — next week; **sala bê** — next year; **di pêşerojê de** — in the future. **Ez ê sibê biçim.** — I will go tomorrow. **Em ê hefteya bê bixwînin.** — We will study next week.

09 / Plans, promises, predictions — Plan, soz, pêşbînî

Future constructions can express plans, intentions, promises and predictions. **Ez ê sibê bixwînim.** — I will study tomorrow. **Em ê hefteya bê biaxivîn.** — We will talk next week. The precise interpretation depends on the conversational context rather than the future particle alone.

10 / The future and grammatical mood — Dahatû û awayê lêkerê

In this construction, future reference is linked to forms often called the **subjunctive** or **non-indicative**. The same verbal morphology can occur after other triggers. Therefore **bi-** does not mean “future” by itself: the future interpretation comes from the entire construction, especially the future particle and context.

11 / Common mistakes — Çewtiyên gelemperî

Avoid writing ***Ez ê diçim** as the default taught future construction; mixing indicative **di-** with this **ê** + subjunctive pattern; forgetting person endings; assuming all verbs use **bi-** in the same way; and treating future particle variants across dialects as interchangeable without context.

12 / Dialogue — Axaftin

A: **Tu yê sibê çî bikî?** — What will you do tomorrow? B: **Ez ê sibê bixwînim.** — I will study tomorrow. A: **Tu yê piştî vê biçî?** — Will you go after this? B: **Erê, ez ê biçim.** — Yes, I will go.

13 / Exercises — Rahênan

A. Complete: Ez __ biçim; Tu __ biçî; Ew __ biçe; Em __ biçin. **B.** Change to future: Ez diçim; Ez dixwînim; Em diaxivin. **C.** Negate: Ez ê biçim; Em ê biçin; Ez ê bixwînim. **D.** Translate: “I will go tomorrow”; “Will you go?”; “We will study next week.” **E.** Explain why **bi-** does not independently mean “future.” **F.** Name two future-time adverbs or expressions.

14 / Answer key — Bersiv

A. ê; yê; ê; ê. **B.** Ez ê biçim; Ez ê bixwînim; Em ê biaxivin. **C.** Ez ê neçim; Em ê neçin; Ez ê nexwînim. **D.** Ez ê sibê biçim; Tu yê biçî?; Em ê hefteya bê bixwînin. **E.** The future is expressed by the construction; **bi-** is also used in non-future non-indicative contexts. **F.** Examples: sibê, hefteya bê.

15 / Sources and editorial notes — Çavkanî

Recommended background references: W. M. Thackston (2006), *Kurmanji Kurdish: A Reference Grammar*; Geoffrey Haig and Ergin Öpengin, scholarly descriptions of Northern Kurdish; and Kurmanji grammatical materials on tense, mood and future particles. This is an original pedagogical synthesis, not a direct quotation. Dialect-sensitive forms should receive an additional fluent-speaker review before publication.

16 / Next in the series — Dersa pêş

Lesson 09: Perfect and Compound Tenses — Dema temamkirî û demên hevedudanî. Later: Modal Verbs and Modal Expressions (Lesson 10).