

## TAILPIECE

With what confusion grammar's fraught,  
Ponder the use of 'shall' and 'will'  
They're not as simple as I thought  
Faultless usage eludes me still.

'Shall' betokens the future tense  
Used with the persons 'I' and 'we'  
'Will' is used in the self-same sense  
With 'you' and 'they' and 'he' and 'she'.

'I will' means I resolve to do  
'Will you' means do you wish/intend  
The use of 'shall' in Onions' view  
Has a distinctive post-war trend.

Onions puts the position thus:  
'Shall' denotes an obligation  
'Will' is used in the sense of *must*  
Hence my feeling of frustration!

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