

We use **will** and **be going to** to talk about the future.

Will is used:

- to talk about things we are not sure about or we haven't decided yet.
I'll probably **buy** a new bike. (I'm not sure yet.)
- to express hopes, fears, threats, on-the-spot decisions, offers, promises, warnings, predictions, comments, etc. especially with: expect, hope, believe, I'm afraid, I'm sure, I know, I think, probably, etc.
I'm hungry. I'll **make** a sandwich. (on-the-spot decision)
- to make a prediction based on what we think or imagine.
I think you **will pass** the test.
She **will probably phone** later.
- to talk about actions which will definitely happen in the future and which we cannot control.
He **will be** twelve next year.

Be going to is used:

- to talk about things we are sure about or we have already decided to do in the near future.
I'm **going to buy** a new bike. (I've decided it.)
- to express intentions and plans.
Now that I've got the money, I'm **going to buy** a new dress. (intention)
I'm **going to get** some more training so I can get a better job. (plan)
- when we can see (evidence) that something is going to happen.
Watch out! We're **going to have** an accident.
(We can see a car coming.)
It's **going to rain**. (We can see dark clouds in the sky.)

Time expressions used with will – be going to

tomorrow, tonight, next week / month / year, in two days, the day after tomorrow, soon, in a week / month, etc.

1 Read the sentences below and mark them as **a, b, c, d** or **e** according to what they express.

- 1 I'm hungry. I'll make myself a sandwich.c....
- 2 Don't worry. I won't tell anybody.
- 3 Stop talking or I'll send you out.
- 4 Annie will be three years old next month.
- 5 I think it will rain today.
- 6 This dress is beautiful. I'll buy it.
- 7 We'll probably be home before dinner.
- 8 I promise I'll be on time.

- a prediction based on what we think or imagine
- b promise
- c on-the-spot decision
- d threat
- e action which will happen in the future and we cannot control

Will

Will is used to express predictions, warnings, offers, promises, threats, requests, suggestions, on-the-spot decisions, opinions, hopes and fears (especially with words such as: think, expect, suppose, hope, believe, know and probably).

I expect she **will** come early. (prediction)

Shall

Shall is used with **I** or **We** in questions, suggestions and offers.

Shall we go by train? (suggestion)

Shall I help you with your bags? (offer)

4 Fill in: *will, won't* or *shall*.

Larry: 1)*Shall*.... we go for a picnic tomorrow?

Sue: Yes. That's a good idea. I 2) make some sandwiches.

Larry: OK. And I 3) bring some lemonade.

Sue: 4) I buy some cheese?

Larry: I don't really like cheese.

Sue: I 5) buy any then. I 6) bring some fruit instead.

Larry: I think it 7) be sunny tomorrow so I 8) probably wear my shorts. I 9) take a pullover.

Sue: Well, I think I 10) take mine. It is still cold in the mornings.

5 What is going to happen? Use the phrases to complete the sentences.

- play tennis
- watch a film

- make a cake
- wash the dishes

- win the race
- take the bus



1 They *are going to* ..
watch a film



2 She
.....



3 They
.....



4 Bob
.....



5 They
.....



6 Emma
.....

Note:

- We use the **Present Continuous** rather than 'be going to' for things which are **definitely arranged to happen in the future**.
They're **having** a party next week. (It's all arranged. The invitations have already been sent.)
They're **going to have** a party in two weeks. (They've decided but it hasn't been arranged yet.)
- We use the **Present Simple** for **timetables, programmes, etc.**
Our plane **leaves** at 10:30 am.
- We do not use the **Future tense** after the words **while, before, until, as soon as, if** (conditional) and **when** (time conjunction). However, we can use **when + will**, if **when** is a question word. Call me **when** you arrive. **BUT** **When** will you be ready?
- With the verbs **go** and **come** we often use the **Present Continuous** rather than 'be going to'. I'm **going** out tonight. **RATHER THAN** I'm **going to go** out tonight.

8 Fill in the *present continuous* or *be going to*, then identify the speech situations.

fixed arrangement – something already decided

1 *fixed arrangement*



She *is getting married*
(get/married) this afternoon.

2



They
..... (get/married) in June.

3



He
(fly) to New York in an hour.

4



He
(travel) to New York.

5



She
(phone) the dentist.

6



She
(see) the dentist tomorrow.

9 Put the verbs in brackets into the *present simple* or the *future simple*.

- 1 We ... *will leave* ... (leave) as soon as the taxi ... *arrives* ... (arrive).
- 2 He (phone) us before he (leave) home.
- 3 She (stay) at home until she (feel) better.
- 4 "When (you/visit) them?" "Probably next week."
- 5 When Corey (finish) school, he (go) to university.
- 6 I (send) you a postcard as soon as I (get) to Brazil.
- 7 When (she/be) back?
- 8 If you (see) Betty, tell her about the party.

10 Fill in: *shall*, *will* or *be going to*.

- 1 A: What do you want for lunch?
B: I think I ... *will* ... have chicken and some salad.
- 2 A: Josh has come back from England.
B: I know. I see him later today.
- 3 A: Costas and I get married in April.
B: Really? Congratulations!
- 4 A: we meet on Sunday?
B: Sorry, but I visit my aunt. She is expecting me.
- 5 A: Is Dave coming to the party?
B: Yes, but he probably be late.
- 6 A: Have you decided where to go on holiday?
B: Yes, I travel around Europe.

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Put the verbs in brackets into the *present simple*, the *present continuous*, *be going to* or *will*.

- Gary: What 1) *are you planning* (plan) to do after the exams? 2) (you/stay) in London?
- Angela: No, I 3) (leave) this weekend. I 4) (visit) my brother in Wales. What about you?
- Gary: I 5) (think) of getting a part-time job. I 6) (want) to buy a new electric guitar.
- Angela: Oh, so 7) (you/be) still with your band?
- Gary: Yes. In fact, we 8) (play) at Sam's Place this Friday. Can you come?
- Angela: Of course. My plane 9) (not/leave) until 8 pm on Saturday so I 10) (have) plenty of time to pack.
- Gary: Great!
- Angela: Is it OK if I 11) (bring) a friend?
- Gary: Of course. Invite as many people as you like.
- Angela: Thanks. I 12) (see) you there.



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Put the verbs in brackets into the *present simple*, the *present continuous*, *be going to* or *will*.

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| <p>1 A: I <i>am seeing</i> (see) Jim at 8 o'clock tonight. B: Really? I thought he was away on a business trip.</p> <p>2 A: Would you like something to drink? B: I (have) a glass of orange juice, please.</p> <p>3 A: What time (the bus/leave)? B: In half an hour.</p> <p>4 A: I don't understand this exercise, Dad. B: OK, Peter I (help) you.</p> | <p>5 A: Have you decided what to get Jim for his birthday? B: Yes. I (buy) him a watch.</p> <p>6 A: I (go) to the cinema. There's a new film on. Would you like to come? B: What time (the film/start)?</p> <p>7 A: Look at that car! B: Oh no! It (hit) the lamppost!</p> <p>8 A: The Ting Tings (play) a concert at Wembley Stadium. B: I know. I have already bought a ticket.</p> |
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