

# I will and I'm going to

**A**

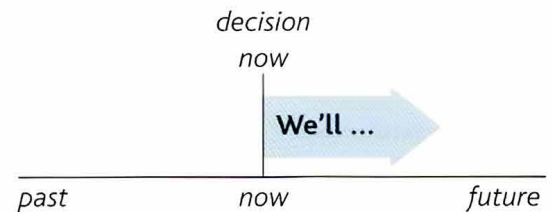
Future actions

Study the difference between **will** and **(be) going to**:

Sarah is talking to Helen:



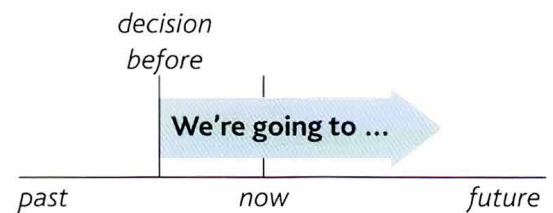
**will ('ll)**: We use **will** to announce a new decision. The party is a new idea.



Later that day, Helen meets Dan:



**(be) going to**: We use **(be) going to** when we have *already decided* to do something. Helen had already decided to invite lots of people *before* she spoke to Dan.



Compare:

- 'Gary phoned while you were out.' 'OK. **I'll call** him back.'
- 'Gary **phoned** while you were out.' 'Yes, I know. **I'm going to call** him back.'
- 'Anna is in hospital.' 'Oh really? I didn't know. **I'll go** and visit her.'
- 'Anna is in hospital.' 'Yes, I know. **I'm going to visit** her this evening.'

**B**

Future happenings and situations (predicting the future)

We use both **will** and **going to** to predict future happenings and situations. So you can say:

- I think **the weather will be** nice later. *or*  
I think **the weather is going to be** nice later.
- Those shoes are well-made. **They'll last** a long time. *or*  
Those shoes are well-made. **They're going to last** a long time.

When we say something **is going to** happen, we know this from the situation *now*. What is happening *now* shows that something **is going to** happen in the future. For example:

- Look at those black clouds. **It's going to rain.** (*not* It will rain)  
(We can see that it **is going to rain** from the clouds that are in the sky *now*.)
- I feel terrible. I think **I'm going to be sick.** (*not* I think I'll be sick)  
(I think **I'm going to be sick** because I feel terrible *now*.)

Do not use **will** in this type of situation.

## Exercises

**23.1** Complete the sentences using **will ('ll)** or **going to**.

- 1 A: Why are you turning on the TV?  
B: I'm going to watch the news. (I / watch)
- 2 A: Oh, I've just realised. I haven't got any money.  
B: Haven't you? Well, don't worry. \_\_\_\_\_ you some. (I / lend)
- 3 A: I've got a headache.  
B: Have you? Wait a second and \_\_\_\_\_ an aspirin for you. (I / get)
- 4 A: Why are you filling that bucket with water?  
B: \_\_\_\_\_ the car. (I / wash)
- 5 A: I've decided to repaint this room.  
B: Oh, have you? What colour \_\_\_\_\_ it? (you / paint)
- 6 A: Where are you going? Are you going shopping?  
B: Yes, \_\_\_\_\_ some things for dinner. (I / buy)
- 7 A: I don't know how to use the washing machine.  
B: It's easy. \_\_\_\_\_ you. (I / show)
- 8 A: What would you like to eat?  
B: \_\_\_\_\_ a pizza, please. (I / have)
- 9 A: Did you call Lisa?  
B: Oh, no. I completely forgot. \_\_\_\_\_ her now. (I / call)
- 10 A: Has Dan decided what to do when he leaves school?  
B: Yes. Everything is planned. \_\_\_\_\_ a holiday for a few weeks.  
(he / have) Then \_\_\_\_\_ a management training course. (he / do)

**23.2** Read the situations and complete the sentences using **will ('ll)** or **going to**.

- 1 The phone rings and you answer. Somebody wants to speak to John.  
CALLER: Hello. Can I speak to John, please?  
YOU: Just a moment. I'll get him. (I / get)
- 2 It's a nice day, so you have decided to take a walk. Just before you go, you tell your friend.  
YOU: The weather's too nice to stay in. \_\_\_\_\_ a walk. (I / take)  
FRIEND: Good idea! I think \_\_\_\_\_ you. (I / join)
- 3 Your friend is worried because she has lost her driving licence.  
YOU: Don't worry. I'm sure \_\_\_\_\_ it. (you / find)  
FRIEND: I hope so.
- 4 There was a job advertised in the paper recently. At first you were interested, but then you decided not to apply.  
FRIEND: Have you decided what to do about that job you were interested in?  
YOU: Yes, \_\_\_\_\_ for it. (I / not / apply)
- 5 You and a friend are stuck in traffic. You have to be in a meeting in five minutes and you need at least another 20 minutes to get there.  
YOU: The meeting begins in five minutes. \_\_\_\_\_ . (we / be late)
- 6 Ann and Sam are staying at a hotel. Their room is in very bad condition, especially the ceiling.  
ANN: The ceiling doesn't look very safe, does it?  
SAM: No, it looks as if \_\_\_\_\_ . (it / fall down)
- 7 Paul has to go to the airport to catch a plane tomorrow morning.  
PAUL: Kate, I need somebody to take me to the airport tomorrow morning.  
KATE: That's no problem. \_\_\_\_\_ you. (I / take) What time is your flight?  
PAUL: 10.30.  
KATE: OK, \_\_\_\_\_ you up at your house at about 8 o'clock then. (I / pick)  
Later that day, Joe offers to take Paul to the airport.  
JOE: Paul, do you want me to take you to the airport?  
PAUL: No thanks, Joe. \_\_\_\_\_ me. (Kate / take)