

# I will and I'm going to

A

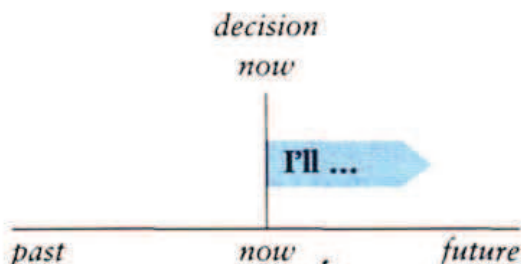
## Future actions

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

Sue is talking to Helen:



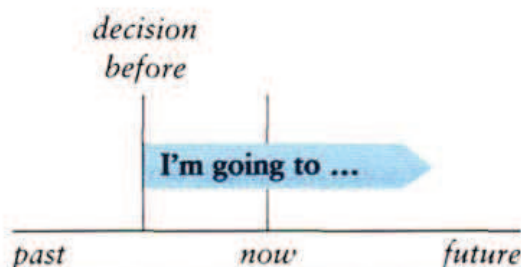
**will ('ll)**: We use **will** when we decide to do something at the time of speaking. The speaker has not decided before. The party is a new idea.



Later that day, Helen meets Dave:



**(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 Dave.



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.'
- 'Ann is in hospital.' 'Oh really? I didn't know. I'll go and visit her.'
- 'Ann is in hospital.' 'Yes, I know. I'm going to visit her this evening.'

B

## Future happenings and situations (predicting the future)

Sometimes there is not much difference between **will** and **going to**. For example, you can say:

- I think the weather **will** be nice this afternoon.
- I think the weather **is going to** be nice this afternoon.

When we say something is **going to** happen, we think this is because of the situation *now* (see Unit 20C). 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.

In other situations, use **will**:

- Tom **will** probably get here at about 8 o'clock.
- I think Sarah **will** like the present we bought for her.
- These shoes are very well-made. They'll last a long time.

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

- 1 A: Why are you turning on the television?  
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, \_\_\_\_\_ something for dinner. (I / buy)
- 7 A: I don't know how to use this camera.  
B: It's easy. \_\_\_\_\_ you. (I / show)
- 8 A: What would you like to eat?  
B: \_\_\_\_\_ a sandwich, please. (I / have)
- 9 A: Did you post that letter for me?  
B: Oh, I'm sorry. I completely forgot. \_\_\_\_\_ it now. (I / do)
- 10 A: The ceiling in this room doesn't look very safe, does it?  
B: No, it looks as if \_\_\_\_\_ down. (it / fall)
- 11 A: Has George decided what to do when he leaves school?  
B: Yes. Everything is planned. \_\_\_\_\_ a holiday for a few weeks. (he / have) Then \_\_\_\_\_ a computer programming 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 Jim.  
CALLER: Hello. Can I speak to Jim, 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 an important letter.  
YOU: Don't worry about the letter. 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 come home very late. Other people in the house are asleep. Your friend is noisy.  
YOU: Shh! Don't make so much noise. \_\_\_\_\_ everybody up. (you / wake)
- 6 Paul has to go to the airport to catch a plane tomorrow morning.  
PAUL: Liz, I need somebody to take me to the airport tomorrow morning.  
LIZ: That's no problem. \_\_\_\_\_ you. (I / take) What time is your flight?  
PAUL: 10.50.  
LIZ: OK, \_\_\_\_\_ at about 9 o'clock then. (we / leave)  
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. (Liz / take)