

I'm going to (do)

A

I **am going to do** something = I have already decided to do it, I intend to do it:

- ☐ 'Are you **going to eat** anything?' 'No, I'm not hungry.'
- ☐ A: I hear Sarah won the lottery. What **is** she **going to do** with the money?
B: She's **going to buy** a new car.
- ☐ I'm just **going to make** a quick phone call. Can you wait for me?
- ☐ This cheese smells horrible. I'm **not going to eat** it.

B

I **am doing** and I **am going to do**

I **am doing** = it is *already fixed or arranged*. For example, you have arranged to go somewhere or meet somebody:

- ☐ I'm **leaving** next week. I've booked my flight.
- ☐ What time **are** you **meeting** Emily this evening?

I **am going to do** something = I've decided to do it. Maybe I've arranged to do it, maybe not.

- ☐ A: Your shoes are dirty.
B: Yes, I know. I'm **going to clean** them.
(= I've *decided* to clean them, but I haven't arranged this with anybody)
- ☐ I don't want to stay here. Tomorrow I'm **going to look** for somewhere else to stay.

Compare:

- ☐ I don't know what I'm **doing** tomorrow. (= I don't know my schedule or plans)
- ☐ I don't know what I'm **going to do** about the problem. (= I haven't decided what to do)

Often the difference is small and either form is possible.

C

You can also say that 'something **is going to happen**' in the future. For example:



Some more examples:

- ☐ Look at those black clouds! It's **going to rain**. (we can see the clouds *now*)
- ☐ I feel terrible. I think I'm **going to be** sick. (I feel terrible *now*)
- ☐ The economic situation is bad now and things **are going to get** worse.

D

I **was going to do** something = I intended to do it, but didn't do it:

- ☐ We **were going to travel** by train, but then we decided to drive instead.
- ☐ I **was** just **going to cross** the road when somebody shouted 'Stop!'

You can say that 'something **was going to happen**' (but didn't happen):

- ☐ I thought it **was going to rain**, but it didn't.

Exercises

20.1 Write questions with **going to**.

- 1 Your friend has won some money. You ask:
(what / do?) *What are you going to do with it?*
- 2 Your friend is going to a wedding next week. You ask:
(what / wear?)
- 3 Your friend has just bought a new table. You ask:
(where / put?)
- 4 Your friend has decided to have a party. You ask:
(who / invite?)
- 5 Your friend has bought some fish for dinner. You ask:
(how / cook?)

20.2 Complete the sentences using **I'm going to ... / I'm not going to ...**. Choose from:

complain learn run say try wash not/accept ~~not/eat~~ not/tell

- 1 This cheese smells horrible. *I'm not going to eat* it.
- 2 I haven't been trying hard enough. From now on harder.
- 3 I have to make a speech tomorrow, but I don't know what
- 4 'The car is very dirty.' 'I know. it.'
- 5 I've been offered a job, but it. The pay is too low.
- 6 a language, but I haven't decided yet which one.
- 7 One day in a marathon. It's my ambition.
- 8 The food in this restaurant is awful.
- 9 Ben doesn't need to know what happened, so him.

20.3 What is going to happen in these situations? Use the words in brackets.

- 1 There are a lot of black clouds in the sky.
(rain) *It's going to rain.*
- 2 It is 8.30. Tom is leaving home. He has to be at work at 8.45, but the journey takes 30 minutes.
(late) He
- 3 There is a hole in the bottom of the boat. A lot of water is coming in through the hole.
(sink) The boat
- 4 Amy and Ben are driving. The tank is nearly empty. It's a long way to the nearest petrol station.
(run out) They
- 5 Sarah's car was badly damaged in an accident. Now it has to be repaired.
(cost a lot) It to repair the car.

20.4 Complete the sentences with **was/were going to**. Choose from:

be buy give up phone play say ~~travel~~

- 1 We *were going to travel* by train, but then we decided to go by car instead.
- 2 I some new clothes yesterday, but I didn't have time to go to the shops.
- 3 Tom and I tennis last week, but he'd hurt his knee and had to cancel.
- 4 I Jane, but I sent her an email instead.
- 5 I thought the exam hard, but it was easier than I expected.
- 6 Peter his job, but in the end he decided to stay where he was.
- 7 I'm sorry I interrupted you. What you ?