

I will and I'm going to

A

Future actions

Compare **will** and **(be) going to**:

Sarah is talking to Helen:

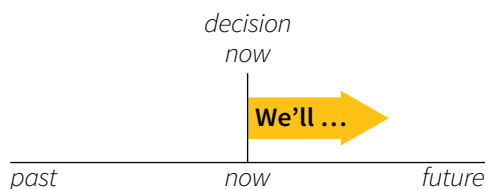
Let's have a party.



SARAH

That's a great idea.
We'll invite lots of people.

HELEN

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

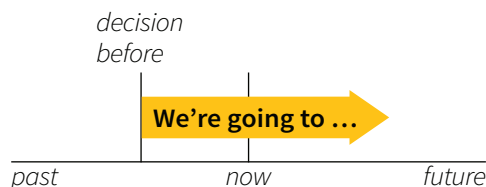
Later that day, Helen meets Max:

Sarah and I have decided to have a party.
We're going to invite lots of people.

HELEN



MAX

(be) going to (We're going to invite ...)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 Max.

Compare:

- ☐ 'Gary has been trying to contact you.' 'Has he? OK, I'll call him.'
- 'Gary has been trying to contact you.' 'Yes, I know. I'm going to call him.'
- ☐ 'Anna is in hospital.' '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** for 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 believe this because of 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** – the black clouds are in the sky *now*)

Compare:

- ☐ We're going to be late. The meeting starts in five minutes and it takes 15 minutes to get there.
(it is clear *now* that we don't have enough time to get there)
- ☐ Jane **will be** late for the meeting. She's always late.
(I believe this because I know what Jane is like)

Exercises

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

- 1 A: Why are you turning on the TV?
B: I'm going to watch the news. (I / watch)
- 2 A: I forgot my wallet. I don't have any money.
B: Not to worry. you some. (I / lend)
- 3 A: Why are you filling that bucket with water?
B: the car. (I / wash)
- 4 A: I don't know how to use the washing machine.
B: It's easy. you. (I / show)
- 5 A: I've decided to paint this room.
B: That's nice. What colour it? (you / paint)
- 6 A: Where are you going? Are you going shopping?
B: Yes, some things for dinner tonight. (I / buy)
- 7 A: What would you like to eat?
B: a pizza, please. (I / have)
- 8 A: This food doesn't taste very good, does it?
B: No, it's horrible. it. (I / not / finish)
- 9 A: Tom is starting an evening class next month.
B: Is he? What? (he / study)
- 10 A: Did you call Lisa?
B: Oh, no. I completely forgot. her now. (I / call)
- 11 A: Has Dan decided what to do when he leaves school?
B: Yes. Everything is planned.
First 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 (be) going to.

- 1 You want some coffee. You go to the kitchen to make some.
You say (to your friend): I'm going to make some coffee. Would you like some?
- 2 You're speaking to a friend and arranging to meet. You suggest a time and place.
You say: you at 10.30 in the hotel lobby, OK? (I/see)
- 3 You have decided to sell your car. You tell a friend of yours.
You say: I don't need my car any more. it. (I/sell)
- 4 Your friend is worried because she has lost her driving licence.
You say: Don't worry. I'm sure it. (you/find)
- 5a You have an old camera that is broken. You have decided to throw it away. You tell your friend.
You say: This camera is broken. it away. (I/throw)
- 5b Your friend loves and collects old cameras. He doesn't want you to throw it away.
He says: Don't throw it away! it. (I/have)
- 6a Joe has to go to the airport tomorrow. He doesn't know how to get there. Amy offers to take him.
Amy says: Don't worry about getting to the airport, Joe. you. (I/take)
- 6b Later that day, Paul offers to take Joe to the airport. Joe tells him that it's not necessary.
Joe says: Thanks, Paul, but me. (Amy/take)

23.3 Which goes with which?

- 1 Why don't you come to the party with us?
- 2 That ceiling looks dangerous.
- 3 He's looking very tired.
- 4 This table is too big.
- 5 The weather forecast is good.
- 6 Jack is very determined.
- 7 They are building a new skyscraper here.
- 8 I haven't seen Ben for ages.

- a He'll get what he wants.
- b He probably won't remember me.
- c It's going to be a nice day.
- d It looks as if it's going to fall down.
- e It's going to be 200 metres high.
- f ~~You'll enjoy it.~~
- g I don't think it will fit in the room.
- h I think he's going to fall asleep.

- 1 f
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8