

I will and I'm going to

A

Future actions

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

Sue is talking to Helen:

Let's have a party.

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

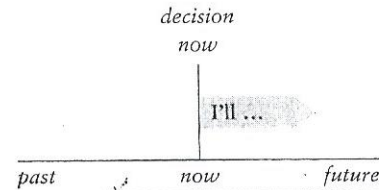


SUE



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:

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

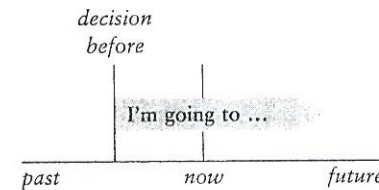


HELEN



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)