



TO BE GOING TO vs WILL



TO BE GOING TO

To Be Going To is used to refer to two future concepts.

INTENTIONS: when we have made a decision (before now) to do something (after now) we usually use this structure.

In this situation, we probably don't have a solid promise of when.

*I'm going to go on a diet!
Frank's going to fix my bike.*

PREDICTIONS: in a situation where we can literally see what is sure/certain to happen we also use this structure.

*Look at those clouds! It's going to rain!
It's too hot, the ice cream is going to melt before we get home.*



WILL

Will is often used to refer to four different future concepts:

SPONTANEOUS DECISIONS: when we make a decision at the moment of speaking (often in response to something)

The printer's broken again, I'll call IT

GENERAL PREDICTIONS: this is more like giving our opinion of the future - in this use, we often start by saying "I think I believe".

I think the problem will be a lot bigger next year

MAKING AND REQUESTING PROMISES: when we want someone to commit to something in the future

Will you help me clean up? Yes, I promise I will

FUTURE FACTS: when we see something as a fact in the future

Maria will be at the meeting tomorrow.



STRUCTURES

To Be Going To - Sub + am/are/is + going to + inf (-to)

You are going to cut yourself if you are not careful!

Is he going to study before the holidays?

I am not going to get there on time!

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Will - Sub + will + inf (-to) + rest

She will be very happy when she sees you!

Will you send me the details of the hotel, please?

They won't be able to come to the party.

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EXERCISES

Choose To Be Going To + inf or Will + inf to fill in the gaps in the sentences below.

John: Why are you holding a piece of paper?

Sally: I (write) _____ a letter to my friends back home in Texas.

Antoinette: I'm about to fall asleep. I need to wake up!

Mike: I (get) _____ you a cup of coffee. That will wake you up.

George: I can't hear the television!

Thelma: I (turn) _____ it up so you can hear it.

We are so excited about our trip next month to France. We (visit) _____
Paris, Nice and Grenoble.

Sarah (come) _____ to the party. Oliver (be)
_____ there as well.

Ted: It is so hot in here!

Sarah: I (turn) _____ the air-conditioning on.

I think he (be) _____ the next President of the United States.

After I graduate, I (attend) _____ medical school and become a doctor. I
have wanted to be a doctor all my life.

Mr. Clarke: Excuse me, I need to talk to someone about our hotel room. I am afraid it is simply
too small for four people.

Receptionist: That man at the service counter (help) _____ you.

As soon as the weather clears up, we (walk) _____ down to the beach and go
swimming.



EXERCISES

Choose To Be Going To + inf or Will + inf to fill in the gaps in the sentences below.

Mark: (you, do) _____ me a favour, Sam?

Sam: Sure, what do you want me to do?

Mark: I (change) _____ the broken light bulb in the lamp above the dining room table. I need someone to hold the ladder for me while I am up there.

Sam: No problem, I (hold) _____ it for you.

Gina: Where are you going? Ted: I (go) _____ to the store to pick up some groceries.

Gina: What (you, get) _____ ?

Ted: I (buy) _____ some milk, some bread, and some coffee.

John: Wow, it's freezing out there.

Jane: I (make) _____ some coffee to warm us up. Do you want a piece of pie as well?

John: Coffee sounds great! But I (have) _____ dinner with some friends later, so I'd better skip the pie.

Jane: I'm _____ to dinner tonight too, but I'm having a piece of pie anyway.

Frank: I heard you're taking a Spanish class at the community college.

Tom: Yeah, I (go) _____ to Guatemala next spring and I thought knowing a little Spanish would make the trip easier.

Frank: I (visit) _____ my brother in Marseilles next year.

Maybe I should take a French class.

Tom: I have a course catalogue in the other room. I (go) _____ get it, and we can see whether or not they're offering a French course next semester.

Mark: What are you doing with those scissors?

Beth: I (cut out) _____ that picture of the ocean in the travel magazine.

Mark: What (you, do) _____ with it?

Beth: I (paint) _____ a watercolour of the ocean for my art class, and I thought I could use this photograph as a model.