The Future Tenses

We use *be going to*

- for our plans.
  I booked a table for two for this evening. I am going to take my wife to one of the best restaurants in the city.
- for intentions.
  I'm going to study hard and pass the exam.
- for predictions based on what we see.
  Look at these black clouds. It's going to rain.

Affirmative

Subject	am / is / are	going to	Verb	
I	am	going to	have	dinner.
He / She / It	is			
We / You / They	are			

Negative

Subject	am / is / are not	going to	Verb	
I	am not	going to	have	dinner.
He / She / It	is not (isn't)			
We / You / They	are not (aren't)			

Interrogative

Am / Is / Are	Subject	going to	Verb	
Am	I	going to	have	dinner?
Is	he / she / it			
Are	we / you / they			

We use *will future*

- for the decisions made at the time of speaking.
  A: What would you like to have, coffee or tea?
  B: I'll have tea, please. (The speaker decides at the moment of speaking.)
- for predictions with no evidence.
  I don't know what I'll do tomorrow. I think I'll stay at home.
- for promises or threats.
  Take your umbrella with you; otherwise, you will get soaked.
  Don't worry mum, I will let you know when I arrive.
- for requests and offers.
  Will you please help me to tidy my room?
- with be sure, think, hope, be afraid, expect, believe, promise, guess maybe and perhaps.
  I hope I'll win the game.
  I'm afraid she won't come to your party.

Affirmative

Subject	Will	Verb	
I / He / She / It	will	open	the door for you.
We / You / They			

Negative

Subject	Will not (Won't)	Verb	
I / He / She / It We / You / They	will not (won't)	open	the door for you.

Interrogative

Will	Subject	Verb	
Will	I / he / she / it we / you / they	open	the door for you?

Time expressions often used with the future tenses *Will* and *Be going to*:

tomorrow, tomorrow morning / afternoon / evening,
next Monday / April / week / weekend / month / year, soon, in 2025.

We use the present continuous tense for future

- for personal future arrangements.
  I am seeing Mary tomorrow.
  He is taking Sue out for dinner on Sunday.

NOTE : With this tense, we usually give future time expressions such as tomorrow, this evening, on Tuesday, next weekend, etc…

This tense is also common with verbs such as go, come, see, meet, visit, have, leave, etc…

A: What are you doing this evening?
B: I am having dinner with Jamie.

A. Complete the sentences with the correct forms of the verbs in brackets. Use *will*, *be going to* or *present continuous*.

1. It's OK. I ..... (help) you do your homework.
2. A : Have you decided what to do when you graduate from the university?
   B : Yes, I ..... (have) a holiday for a couple of months, and then I ..... (apply) for a permanent job.
3. I have a lot of work to do. I think I ..... (ask) my mother for some help.
4. A : Where are you going?
   B : I ..... (buy) something for the guests.
5. A : You look terrible. What is wrong with you?
   B : I have a backache. I have already phoned my doctor and got an appointment. I ..... (see) him at 9.00 tomorrow.
6. A : What's the problem?
   B : I left my wallet at home.
   A : Don't worry I ..... (lend) you some money.
7. Son : Dad, I need a new shirt for the school.
   Father : Okay, I ..... (buy) it this weekend.
   (Later, mother to father)
   Mother : Why don't you buy a new shirt for Mike, dear?
   Father : I know. I ..... (buy) it this weekend.
8. Yesterday, one of my friends, Sharon, called me and we made a plan for the next weekend. We ..... (have) dinner at a nice restaurant on Sunday.
9. We ..... (have) a surprise birthday party for Fiona tomorrow and I hope everyone ..... (come).
10. Don't forget to take your umbrella with you. It ..... (rain) within a few hours.

B. Match these sentences.

1. I am planning to go shopping.
2. I am going to meet my newborn niece this evening.
3. Let's go to an open-buffet restaurant today.
4. I am trying to save money to buy a new car.
5. I am feeling sick and unhealthy.
6. Don't worry about your project.
7. This coat is very big for you.

◯ I am sure you will hand it in before the deadline.
◯ Unfortunately, I can't come because I am going to the theatre with my family.
◯ I am going to be more careful with my food preferences.
◯ But I am going to buy a washing machine instead as I need a new one.
◯ But I will need my friend to help me with my choices.
◯ I am going to buy a rattle for her.
◯ I know, I am going to take it back to the shop.

6 Read Lily's e-mail about her spring break plans. Choose the correct option.

Hi Nancy,

Loved your photos! You look great, sweetie.

There is nothing much in here except that we ***are going to / will*** have two weeks off. I ***am not going to / won't*** do anything special in the first week. I think I ***am going to / will*** just stay at home. Maybe I ***am going to / will*** watch a few films. I'm not sure, I guess my cousin ***is going to / will*** visit us for a few days. If she comes, we ***are going to / will*** go to Adele's live concert. She ***is going to / will*** sing in the square on 12th April.

I'm so excited about the second week. We have already made a reservation for a package holiday in Cappadocia, Turkey. We ***are flying / will fly*** on 15th April. We ***are going to / will*** spend three days there. I'm looking forward to it. I've already planned my holiday. I ***am going to / will*** take a hot-air balloon tour. I'm not sure whether my parents ***are going to / will*** join me. The town has always aroused my curiosity! I ***am going to / will*** rent a scooter to travel around. If you're lucky enough, I ***am going to / will*** buy some souvenirs for you. Finally, I guess I'***m going to / will*** leave Göreme Open Air Museum to the last day. I hope I can make it all. We ***are coming / will come*** home on 19th April. Sounds amazing, doesn't it? Oh, by the way, ***are you doing / will you do*** anything special on your spring break?

Miss you so much. Lots of love,

Lily

7 Read the functions in brackets. Then fill in the blanks using the verbs with the correct future form.

1. On Saturday at 11:00 a.m., I ..... (meet) my friend. (**personal arrangement**)
2. I ..... (see) my grandmother next weekend. I can't wait to see her again. (**intention**)
3. Let's hurry. It ..... (rain) in a few minutes. (**prediction**)
4. You're carrying too much. I ..... (open) the door for you. (**spontaneous decision**)
5. I ..... (not / hurt) you anymore. (**promise**)
6. I'm terribly sorry but I can't come. I ..... (work) late till midnight. (**plan**)
7. Don't touch this. It ..... (bite) you. (**warning**)
8. Look out! The vase ..... (fall) down. (**prediction based on evidence**)

8 Write sentences about yourself as in the Exercise 7.

1. (plan) .....
.....
2. (spontaneous decision) .....
.....
3. (personal arrangement) .....
.....