

# future forms: present continuous, be going to, will / won't

## be going to + infinitive

### future plans and intentions

My sister's **going to adopt** a child.

1.16

Are you **going to buy** a new car or a second-hand one?

I'm **not going to go** home for the holidays. It's too far.

### predictions

Barcelona **are going to win**. They're playing really well.

1.17

Look at those black clouds. I think it's **going to rain**.

- We use **be going to** (NOT **will / won't**) when we have already decided to do something. **NOT** *My sister will adopt a child.*
- We also use **be going to** to make a prediction about the future, especially when we have some evidence (e.g. *we can see black clouds*).

## present continuous: be + verb + -ing

### future arrangements

1.18

Lorna and Jamie **are getting** married in October.

We're **meeting** at 10.00 tomorrow in Richard's office.

Jane's **leaving** on Friday and **coming back** next Tuesday.

- We often use the present continuous for future arrangements.
- There is very little difference between the present continuous and **be going to** for future plans / arrangements and often you can use either.
  - **be going to** shows that you have made a decision.  
*We're going to get married next year.*
  - the present continuous emphasizes that you have made the arrangements.  
*We're getting married on October 12th.* (= we've booked the church)
- We often use the present continuous with verbs relating to travel arrangements, e.g. **go, come, arrive, leave, etc.**  
*He's arriving tomorrow and leaving on Thursday.*

## will / shall + infinitive



### instant decisions, promises, offers, predictions, future facts, suggestions

1.19

1 **I'll have** the steak. (instant decision)

**I won't tell** anybody where you are. (promise)

**I'll carry** that bag for you. (offer)

**You'll love** New York! (prediction)

Next year Christmas Day **will be** on a Thursday. (future fact)

2 **Shall I help** you with your homework? (offer)  
**Shall we eat** out tonight? (suggestion)

1 We use **will / won't** (NOT the present simple) for instant decisions, promises, and offers. **NOT** *I carry that bag for you.*

- We can also use **will / won't** for predictions, e.g. *I think Barcelona will win*, and to talk about future facts, e.g. *The election will be on 1st March.*
- 2 We use **shall** (NOT **will**) with **I** and **we** for offers and suggestions when they are questions.

### a Circle the correct form. Tick (✓) the sentence if both are possible.

The exam **will be** / **is** being on the last Friday of term.

- 1 **Will / Shall** we invite your parents for Sunday lunch?
- 2 **A** It's Alice's birthday tomorrow.  
**B** Oh, really? I'm **making** / I'll **make** a cake.
- 3 I'm **not having** / I'm **not going to have** dinner with my family tonight.
- 4 Are you **going to go** / **Will** you go to Jo's party next weekend?
- 5 You can trust me. I'm **not telling** / I won't **tell** anyone what you told me.
- 6 **A** What are you **doing** on Sunday?  
**B** We're **visiting** / I'll **visit** my grandparents.
- 7 I think the birth rate **will go down** / **is going down** in my country in the next few years.
- 8 My grandfather is **going to retire** / **retiring** at the end of the month.
- 9 **Shall / Will** I help you with the washing-up?

### b Complete B's responses with a correct future form.

- A What's your mother **going to do** about her car?  
**B** She's **going to buy** a second-hand one. (buy)
- A I'm **going to miss** you. Please stay in touch.  
**B** I promise I \_\_\_\_\_ every day. (phone)
- A What are Alan's **plans** for the future?  
**B** He \_\_\_\_\_ a degree in engineering. (do)
- A Can I **see** you tonight?  
**B** No, I \_\_\_\_\_ late. Maybe Saturday? (work)
- A Are you **ready** to order?  
**B** Yes, I \_\_\_\_\_ the prawns, please. (have)
- A There's **nothing** in the fridge.  
**B** OK. \_\_\_\_\_ we \_\_\_\_\_ a takeaway? (get)
- A I don't have any money, so I can't go out.  
**B** No problem, I \_\_\_\_\_ you some. (lend)
- A Shall we have a barbecue tomorrow?  
**B** No, the weather forecast says it \_\_\_\_\_. (rain)
- A We land at about 8.00.  
**B** \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_ you up from the airport? (pick)