4 'Will' – 'Be going to' – Future Continuous

Listen and repeat. Then act out.

We use will and be going to to talk about the future.

Will is used:

- **to talk about things we are not sure about or we haven't decided yet.**
  I'll probably **buy** a new bike. (I'm not sure yet.)
- **to express hopes, fears, threats, on-the-spot decisions, offers, promises, warnings, predictions, comments, etc. especially with: expect, hope, believe, I'm afraid, I'm sure, I know, I think, probably, etc.**
  I'm hungry. I'**ll make** a sandwich. (on-the-spot decision)
- **to make a prediction based on what we think or imagine.**
  I think you **will pass** the test.
  She **will** probably **phone** later.
- **to talk about actions which will definitely happen in the future and which we cannot control.**
  He **will be** twelve next year.

Be going to is used:

- **to talk about things we are sure about or we have already decided to do in the near future.**
  I'**m going to buy** a new bike.
  (I've decided it.)
- **to express intentions and plans.**
  Now that I've got the money, I'**m going to buy** a new dress. (intention)
  I'**m going to get** some more training so I can get a better job. (plan)
- **when we can see (evidence) that something is going to happen.**
  Watch out! We're **going to have** an accident.
  (We can see a car coming.)
  It's **going to rain**. (We can see dark clouds in the sky.)

Time expressions used with will – be going to

tomorrow, tonight, next week / month / year, in two days, the day after tomorrow, soon, in a week / month, etc.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

'Will' – 'Be going to' – Future Continuous

4

1 **Read the sentences below and mark them as *a*, *b*, *c*, *d* or *e* according to what they express.**

1 I'm hungry. I'll make myself a sandwich. ...c...
2 Don't worry. I won't tell anybody. .....
3 Stop talking or I'll send you out. .....
4 Annie will be three years old next month. .....
5 I think it will rain today. .....
6 This dress is beautiful. I'll buy it. .....
7 We'll probably be home before dinner. .....
8 I promise I'll be on time. .....

a prediction based on what we think or imagine
b promise
c on-the-spot decision
d threat
e action which will happen in the future and we cannot control

2 **Complete the sentences.**

won't let | 'll take | ~~'ll close~~ | 'll be | won't pass | 'll catch

1 It's cold. I *'ll close* the window.
2 His teacher thinks he ..... a great pianist one day.
3 Do your homework or I ..... you go out.
4 I'm afraid she ..... her exams.
5 Put on your coat or you ..... a cold.
6 This shirt is nice. I ..... it.

3 **Answer the questions about yourself using *I hope*, *I think*, *I believe*, *I expect*, *perhaps* or *probably* as in the example:**

1 Where will you go at the weekend?
I'll probably go skiing in the mountains.
2 What will you buy your best friend for his/her birthday?
.....
3 Where will you be at 3 o'clock tomorrow afternoon?
.....
4 Who will you ask if you need help studying for exams?
.....
5 Where will you spend your holidays?
.....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4 'Will' – 'Be going to' – Future Continuous

Will

Will is used to express predictions, warnings, offers, promises, threats, requests, suggestions, on-the-spot decisions, opinions, hopes and fears (especially with words such as: think, expect, suppose, hope, believe, know and probably).

I expect she **will** come early. (prediction)

Shall

Shall is used with I or We in questions, suggestions and offers.

Shall we go by train? (suggestion)
Shall I help you with your bags? (offer)

4 Fill in: *will*, *won't* or *shall*.

Larry: 1) ....*Shall*.... we go for a picnic tomorrow?
Sue: Yes. That's a good idea. I 2) ..... make some sandwiches.
Larry: OK. And I 3) ..... bring some lemonade.
Sue: 4) ..... I buy some cheese?
Larry: I don't really like cheese.
Sue: I 5) ..... buy any then. I 6) ..... bring some fruit instead.
Larry: I think it 7) ..... be sunny tomorrow so I 8) ..... probably wear my shorts. I 9) ..... take a pullover.
Sue: Well, I think I 10) ..... take mine. It is still cold in the mornings.

5 What is going to happen? Use the phrases to complete the sentences.

- play tennis
- ~~watch a film~~
- make a cake
- wash the dishes
- win the race
- take the bus

1 They .*are going to*.. .*watch a film*.....

2 She .....

.....

3 They.....

.....

4 Bob .....

.....

5 They.....

.....

6 Emma .....

.....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

'Will' – 'Be going to' – Future Continuous

6 **Mrs Potter is the new music teacher at Braxton Academy. Look at the ideas and say what she is going to do as in the example:**

- offer new courses like *Electronic Music* and *Songwriting*
  She's going to offer new courses like Electronic Music and Songwriting.
- invite musicians to play for her students
  .....
- take the students to see the *London Symphony Orchestra*
  .....
- organise a concert at the end of the school year
  .....

7 **Use the words to make questions and then answer them.**

1 are / going / to / what / you / next / do / Sunday?
  What are you going to do next Sunday?
  I'm going to visit my grandparents.
2 going / buy / you / to / for / what / your / birthday / best friend's / are?
  .....
  .....
3 learn / are / a / going / language / new / you / to / year / next?
  .....
  .....
4 are / abroad / you / this / travel / summer / to / going?
  .....
  .....

Note:

- **We use the Present Continuous rather than 'be going to' for things which are definitely arranged to happen in the future.**
  They**'re having** a party next week. (It's all arranged. The invitations have already been sent.)
  They**'re going to have** a party in two weeks. (They've decided but it hasn't been arranged yet.)
- **We use the Present Simple for timetables, programmes, etc.**
  Our plane **leaves** at 10:30 am.
- **We do not use the Future tense after the words while, before, until, as soon as, if (conditional) and when (time conjunction). However, we can use when + will, if when is a question word.** Call me **when** you arrive. **BUT** **When will you be** ready?
- **With the verbs go and come we often use the Present Continuous rather than 'be going to'.** I'm **going** out tonight. **RATHER THAN** I'm **going to go** out tonight.

LIVEWORKSHEETS