

Future forms

42 *be going to* and *will*

- We use *be going to* and *will* to make predictions.
 - We use *be going to* to talk about something we expect to happen because of evidence we have now: *Look at that blue sky. It's going to be hot today.*
 - We use *will* to talk about something that we think, believe or know will happen in the future: *I think computers will do everything for us in the future.*
- We use *be going to* and *will* to talk about future actions.
 - We use *be going to* if we are talking about things that we have already decided or planned to do: *'What are you going to do tonight?' 'I'm going to stay at home.'*
 - We use *will* to talk about decisions that we make at the moment of speaking: *'Tea or coffee?' 'I'll have tea, please.'*
- The form of *be going to* is: *am/are/is + (not) going to + infinitive.*
- The form of *will* is: *will/won't + infinitive without to.*

PRACTICE

42a Circle the correct answer.

- Look at those black clouds. It 'll / 's going to rain.
- 1 I'm tired now, but I'm sure I 'll / 'm going to feel better in the morning.
- 2 The plane's moving. It 'll / 's going to take off very soon.
- 3 Have you seen Mrs Green? She 'll / 's going to have a baby.
- 4 Do you think we 'll / 're going to have a woman president one day?
- 5 Liverpool will / are going to win. The score's 3–0 and there are only two minutes left.
- 6 In my opinion, people won't / aren't going to work at all in the future.

42b Complete the conversations. Use *be going to* or *will* and the verbs in brackets.

- A: What would you like to eat?
B: I can't decide. I think I 'll have (have) a pasta dish.
- 1 A: I (take) the dog for a walk in a few minutes.
B: We (come) with you. We need some fresh air.
- 2 A: (Felix / look for) a job?
B: Yes, but I don't think he (find) one easily.
- 3 A: David (make) some tea. Does anyone else want a cup?
B: No, I (not have) anything to drink, thanks.
- 4 A: Hi, Jean. We're stuck in traffic, so we (arrive) a bit late.
B: Don't worry. We (not start) dinner until you get here.
- 5 A: I spoke to Paul earlier. He (not go) to the party.
B: Really? In that case, I (not go) either.

43 Present continuous or *be going to*

- We use the present continuous with a time expression like *tonight*, *this weekend* and *at eight o'clock* to talk about things that we have planned and arranged to do in the future: *I'm meeting Frank at eight o'clock on Thursday*. (We have already arranged our meeting.)
- We use *be going to* to talk about things that we plan to do in the future, but have not yet arranged to do: *We're going to buy a new car soon*. (We don't know when yet.)

► For the form of the present continuous, see Unit 27.

PRACTICE

43a Circle the correct answer.

A: I'm (o) *stopping* / *going to stop* smoking. And this time I'm not (1) *starting* / *going to start* again.

B: That's good news. Are you (2) *getting* / *going to get* some help?

A: Oh yes. In fact, I'm (3) *seeing* / *going to see* Dr Stevens at four o'clock today and I'm (4) *doing* / *going to do* exactly what he tells me.

A: Helen's (5) *coming* / *going to come* round at seven to have dinner with us.

B: I'm not (6) *being* / *going to be* here. I'm (7) *going* / *going to go* to the theatre tonight, remember?

A: Oh no. I totally forgot. What time are you (8) *coming* / *going to come* home?

43b Re-write the sentences. Use the present continuous or *be going to* form of the verbs in brackets.

o I've arranged to have dinner with Toni tonight.

I *'m having* dinner with Toni tonight. (have)

1 We've decided to travel around the world before university. (travel)

We around the world before university.

2 What have you arranged to do this weekend? (do)

What this weekend?

3 He's decided to study Russian next year. (study)

He Russian next year.

4 My driving test is on Monday morning. (take)

I my driving test on Monday morning.

5 My parents have decided to live in Spain when they retire. (live)

My parents in Spain when they retire.

6 She's arranged to drive Lucy to the station at five o'clock. (drive)

She Lucy to the station at five o'clock.