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.

0 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.

0 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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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 (0) *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.

0 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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS