TALKING ABOUT FUTURE PLANS

WILL AND GOING TO

- We use *GOING TO* rather than *WILL* when we *predict* that something will happen in the future because we have some evidence for it now.
  'What's that matter with her?' 'She thinks she's going to faint.'
- However, if we make a prediction based on our opinion or our past experience we use *WILL*:
  I imagine the stadium will be full for the match on Saturday.
- when we talk about ***intentions*** or ***decisions*** about the future that were made sometime before we report them, we prefer *GOING TO* or the *PRESENT CONTINUOUS*.

'Who's arranging the party?' ' Jo's going to do it.'
(This has been planned)
Toni told me that she's going to move back to Spain.
(Reporting an intention)

PRESENT CONTINUOUS FOR THE FUTURE

When we talk about an ***intention*** to do something in the future, although no definite arrangement has been made, we prefer ***GOING TO*** rather than the *PRESENT CONTINUOUS*. To emphasize that we are talking about a ***definite arrangement***, we prefer ***THE PRESENT CONTINUOUS***.

INTENTIONS	*DEFINITE ARRANGEMENT*
-Before I go to China next year, I'm going to learn some Cantonese. *-I'm still not feeling very well, so I think I'm going to see the doctor sometime this week.*	*-They're leaving from Frankfurt airport at 6.30 pm.* *-We're having a party on Sunday, 12th November. Can you come?*

Exercise I

Choose will ('ll) or (be) going to, whichever is correct or more likely, and one of these verbs.

collapse	**phone**	**re-open**
eat	**leave**	**retire**
enter	**paint**	**see**
explode	**increase**	**show**
have	**walk**	**be sick**

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1. Get out of the building! It sounds like the generator's going to explode.
2. Tim _____ early before he reaches 65. He mentioned it at the meeting recently.
3. 'I think I _____ home across the park.' ' That's a good idea.'
4. Next year, no doubt, more people _____ the competition as the prize money increases.
5. 'Can we meet at 10.00 outside the station?' ' Okay. I _____ you there.'
6. Don't sit on that bench, I _____ it.
7. I'm not feeling well. In fact, I think I _____!
8. Closed over the New Year period. This office _____ on 2nd January. (Sign on an office window)
9. I'm sure you _____ a good time staying with Richard.
10. We _____ with Tim tonight. He's asked us to be there at 7.00.
11. 'The 2.35 to Bristol _____ from platform 5.' (Announcement at railway station)
12. I wouldn't walk across that old bridge if I were you. It looks like it _____.
13. I read in the paper that they _____ the price of gas again.
14. Do you like my new solar watch? Here, I _____ you how it works.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

15. 'Dr Jackson isn't in his office at the moment.' ' In that case, I _____ him at home.'

Exercise II

These sentences refer to the future. Complete them with either **GOING TO** or **THE PRESENT CONTINUOUS**, whichever is correct or more likely.

1. I can't go any further. I _____ on that bench for a while. **(sit)**
2. The game _____ at two o'clock tomorrow. I hope you can be there. **(start)**
3. The service here is very slow. I _____ to the manager if we're not served soon. **(complain)**
4. I have a right to be heard, and no-one _____ me from putting my side of the argument. **(stop)**
5. The two leaders _____ for talks later this afternoon. **(meet)**
6. The bank has announced that it _____ its interest rates by one per cent from tomorrow. **(increase)**
7. Are you _____ my questions or not? **(answer)**
8. I have to get up early tomorrow. I _____ a physics class at 8.00 in the morning. **(teach)**
9. Before I apply for the job, I _____ more information about it. **(get)**
10. Brazil _____ Colombia in today's final. **(play)**

LIVEWORKSHEETS