

Will or be going to

Compare will and be going to:

- 1 We use **will** with an infinitive (do, go, be, arrive, etc.):

INFINITIVE

John will arrive tomorrow.

- 2 We use **will** for actions that we decide to do **now**, at the moment of speaking:

past

now

speaking

decision

I like this coat. I think I'll buy it.

A: *What would you like to eat?*

B: *I'll have a pizza, please.*

We can use **will** for offers and promises:

I'll carry your case for you. (OFFER)

I won't forget your birthday again. (PROMISE)

- 3 We use **will** to talk about things that we think or believe will happen in the future:

I'm sure you'll enjoy the film.

I'm sure it won't rain tomorrow. It'll be another beautiful, sunny day.

We use **be going to** with **to + infinitive** (to do, to be, to rain, etc.):

to + INFINITIVE

It's going to rain soon.

My friends are going to come tonight.

It isn't going to rain today.

What are you going to do on Sunday?

We use **be going to** for actions that we have decided to do **BEFORE** we speak:

past

now

decision

speaking

I'm going to clean my room this afternoon.

(I decided to clean it this morning.)

We can ask questions about people's plans:

Are you going to take the three o'clock train?

(= Have you decided to take the three o'clock train?)

We use **be going to** for something that we expect to happen, because the situation now indicates that it is going to happen:

He's running towards the goal, and he's going to score.

Practice

- A** Complete the sentences, using the words in brackets () and 'll or a form of **be going to**.

► A: Are you going to watch TV tonight?

B: Yes, I'm going to watch (I/watch) my favourite programme at nine o'clock.

1 A: What (you/eat) tonight? What food have you bought?

B: I haven't bought any food. A: Well, why don't you come to my house?

..... (I/cook) us something nice to eat.

2 A: I'm going into the centre of town tomorrow. (I/buy) some new clothes. B: Oh, what (you/get)? A:

(I/look) for a T-shirt and some jeans. B: I'd like to go into the centre too.

..... (I/come) with you.

3 A: (I/leave) work late tomorrow. There is a meeting at six p.m.

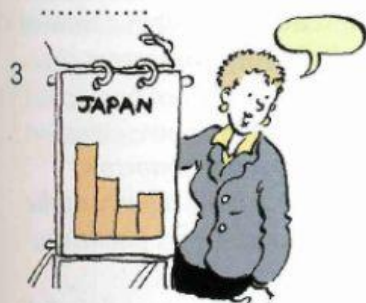
B: Oh, I didn't know that. Well, (I/see) you after the meeting.

4 (I/phone) Tom at six o'clock. I promised to phone him this evening.

5 A: Are you going to have a holiday in the summer?

B: Yes, (I/travel) around Europe with a friend.

B Look at these office scenes. Choose the correct situation for each scene, then choose the correct sentence and cross out that which is incorrect.



- ▶ Relax, I'll answer it./ ~~Relax, I'm going to answer it.~~
a You look hot, I'll open a window./You look hot, I'm going to open a window.
b Next year, we're going to enter the Japanese market./Next year, we'll enter the Japanese market.
c Thanks, I'm going to have an orange juice./Thanks, I'll have an orange juice.
d Have a rest, I'm going to do the photocopying./Have a rest, I'll do the photocopying.
e Thursday is no good for me, I'm afraid. I'll meet the new manager of our Tokyo office./Thursday is no good for me, I'm afraid. I'm going to meet the new manager of our Tokyo office.

C You are at a party. Here are some of the questions you are asked. Reply using *will* or *be going to*.

- ▶ A: Hi, nice to see you. Would you like a drink?
B: (I/have/a coke, please) ~~I'll have a coke, please.~~.....
1 A: What are you doing these days?
B: (Nothing much, but I/start/a new job soon)
2 A: Would you like something to eat?
B: (Thanks, I/have/a sandwich)
3 A: What are your plans for the weekend?
B: (I/do/some shopping tomorrow and I/go/for a swim on Sunday)
.....
4 A: Why is Maria standing by the piano?
B: (She/sing/, I'm afraid)
5 A: This cake looks delicious. Are you going to have some?
B: (No, but I'm sure you/enjoy/it)
6 A: How are you getting home?
B: (David/give/me a lift)