



# TO BE GOING TO vs WILL



## TO BE GOING TO

To Be Going To is used to refer to two future concepts.

**INTENTIONS:** when we have made a decision (before now) to do something (after now) we usually use this structure.

In this situation, we probably don't have a solid promise of when.

*I'm going to go on a diet!  
Frank's going to fix my bike.*

**PREDICTIONS:** in a situation where we can literally see what is sure/certain to happen we also use this structure.

*Look at those clouds! It's going to rain!  
It's too hot, the ice cream is going to melt before we get home.*



## WILL

Will is often used to refer to four different future concepts:

**SPONTANEOUS DECISIONS:** when we make a decision at the moment of speaking (often in response to something)

*The printer's broken again, I'll call IT*

**GENERAL PREDICTIONS:** this is more like giving our opinion of the future - in this use, we often start by saying "I think I believe".

*I think the problem will be a lot bigger next year*

**MAKING AND REQUESTING PROMISES:** when we want someone to commit to something in the future

*Will you help me clean up? Yes, I promise I will*

**FUTURE FACTS:** when we see something as a fact in the future

*Maria will be at the meeting tomorrow.*



## STRUCTURES

### To Be Going To - Sub + am/are/is + going to + inf (-to)

*You are going to cut yourself if you are not careful!*

*Is he going to study before the holidays?*

*I am not going to get there on time!*

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### Will - Sub + will + inf (-to) + rest

*She will be very happy when she sees you!*

*Will you send me the details of the hotel, please?*

*They won't be able to come to the party.*

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# EXERCISES

***Choose To Be Going To + inf or Will + inf to fill in the gaps in the sentences below.***

John: Why are you holding a piece of paper?

Sally: I (write) \_\_\_\_\_ a letter to my friends back home in Texas.

Antoinette: I'm about to fall asleep. I need to wake up!

Mike: I (get) \_\_\_\_\_ you a cup of coffee. That will wake you up.

George: I can't hear the television!

Thelma: I (turn) \_\_\_\_\_ it up so you can hear it.

We are so excited about our trip next month to France. We (visit) \_\_\_\_\_  
Paris, Nice and Grenoble.

Sarah (come) \_\_\_\_\_ to the party. Oliver (be)  
\_\_\_\_\_ there as well.

Ted: It is so hot in here!

Sarah: I (turn) \_\_\_\_\_ the air-conditioning on.

I think he (be) \_\_\_\_\_ the next President of the United States.

After I graduate, I (attend) \_\_\_\_\_ medical school and become a doctor. I  
have wanted to be a doctor all my life.

Mr. Clarke: Excuse me, I need to talk to someone about our hotel room. I am afraid it is simply  
too small for four people.

Receptionist: That man at the service counter (help) \_\_\_\_\_ you.

As soon as the weather clears up, we (walk) \_\_\_\_\_ down to the beach and go  
swimming.



# EXERCISES

**Choose To Be Going To + inf or Will + inf to fill in the gaps in the sentences below.**

Mark: (you, do) \_\_\_\_\_ me a favour, Sam?

Sam: Sure, what do you want me to do?

Mark: I (change) \_\_\_\_\_ the broken light bulb in the lamp above the dining room table. I need someone to hold the ladder for me while I am up there.

Sam: No problem, I (hold) \_\_\_\_\_ it for you.

Gina: Where are you going? Ted: I (go) \_\_\_\_\_ to the store to pick up some groceries.

Gina: What (you, get) \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Ted: I (buy) \_\_\_\_\_ some milk, some bread, and some coffee.

John: Wow, it's freezing out there.

Jane: I (make) \_\_\_\_\_ some coffee to warm us up. Do you want a piece of pie as well?

John: Coffee sounds great! But I (have) \_\_\_\_\_ dinner with some friends later, so I'd better skip the pie.

Jane: I'm \_\_\_\_\_ to dinner tonight too, but I'm having a piece of pie anyway.

Frank: I heard you're taking a Spanish class at the community college.

Tom: Yeah, I (go) \_\_\_\_\_ to Guatemala next spring and I thought knowing a little Spanish would make the trip easier.

Frank: I (visit) \_\_\_\_\_ my brother in Marseilles next year.

Maybe I should take a French class.

Tom: I have a course catalogue in the other room. I (go) \_\_\_\_\_ get it, and we can see whether or not they're offering a French course next semester.

Mark: What are you doing with those scissors?

Beth: I (cut out) \_\_\_\_\_ that picture of the ocean in the travel magazine.

Mark: What (you, do) \_\_\_\_\_ with it?

Beth: I (paint) \_\_\_\_\_ a watercolour of the ocean for my art class, and I thought I could use this photograph as a model.