

Future: going to OR will OR present continuous?

My friend is going to live in Italy. That boat is going to sink – there are too many passengers. Goodbye. I'll see you tomorrow. – I can't see you tomorrow. I'm playing tennis.

1 Match the sentences with the explanations.

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 – Hi, Dan! What <i>are you doing</i> at the weekend? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 – <i>I'm staying</i> at home on Saturday. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 – What <i>are you going to do</i> ? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 – <i>I'm going to revise</i> for my exams. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 – <i>Will you be</i> free on Saturday evening? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 – Yes, <i>I'm not doing</i> anything in the evening. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 – Good. We can watch the match on TV. <i>I'll come</i> at 7.30. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8 – OK. <i>I'll see</i> you on Saturday. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I must go now. The cat's on the table. <i>It's going to eat</i> my dinner! | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- a An intention, a plan made before the moment of speaking.
 b An intention, a decision that we make now, at the moment of speaking.
 c A future event or action that seems certain because of something we can see now.
 d A simple future fact.
 e An arrangement made for a particular time in the future.

2 What do you say? Use the present continuous or will or going to.

- 1 You're 16. It's your birthday next Friday.
 I (be) *will ('ll) be* 17 next Friday.
- 2 To celebrate your birthday, your parents wanted to take you to a restaurant, but yesterday you decided to have a big party.
 I don't want to go to a restaurant. I (have) a big party.
- 3 You've invited twenty people. They've all accepted the invitation. You're telling your parents about the arrangement.
 Twenty people (come) to my party.
- 4 You aren't sure what to wear on Friday. Decide!
 I know! I (wear) my white trousers.
- 5 You want to have the party outside. You're watching the TV weather forecast.
 Great! It (not rain) on Friday.

3 Which sentence follows the first sentence? Underline the correct verb form.

- 1 I'm free tomorrow. (*I'm not working.* / *I won't work.*)
- 2 I've decided to go into town. (*I'll buy* / *I'm going to buy* some new clothes.)
- 3 My sister can't come with me. (*She works* / *She's working* tomorrow morning.)
- 4 Who can I ask to go with me? I know! (*I'm going to phone* / *I'll phone* Kate.)
- 5 We can get the 8.30 bus. (*We'll be* / *We're going to be* in town at 9.00.)

4 This is a dialogue in a romantic film.

Complete the dialogue, using the present continuous (x 2), will (x 2) and going to (x 1).

- When (1 you leave) *are you leaving* ?
- Tomorrow. (2 I get) the 8.00 train.
- When (3 you be) back?
- In a year, two years – I don't know, but I promise (4 I come) back.
- Two years! Oh, Ralph, I'm so unhappy. (5 I cry)

