

# 21 Be going to

1 We form sentences with **be going to** like this:

be going + to + INFINITIVE  
It is going to snow.

POSITIVE

I am  
He/She/It is  
We/You/They are } going to leave.

NEGATIVE

I am  
He/She/It is  
We/You/They are } not going to leave.

QUESTIONS

Am I  
Is he/she/it  
Are we/you/they } going to start?

2 Note that we usually use the short form of **be** (**I'm**, **he/she/it's**, **we/you/they're**):

*They're going to leave.*

*He's going to spend a week by the sea.*

3 The negative short form is **I'm not going to**:

*I'm not going to play tennis today.*

With **he**, **she**, **it**, there are two negative short forms:

*He/she/it isn't going to come.*

*He/she/it's not going to come.*

With **you**, **we** and **they**, there are also two negative short forms:

*You/we/they aren't going to come.*

*You/we/they're not going to come.*

4 We use **be going to** for the future. We use it:

- ▶ to talk about things we have decided to do in the future:  
A: *What are you going to do tomorrow?*  
B: *I'm going to visit Paul in Brighton.*  
A: *Are you going to drive?*  
B: *No, I'm going to take the train.*
- ▶ to predict the future, using information we know now:  
*Look at that blue sky! It's going to be hot.*  
*I've eaten too much. I'm going to be ill.*  
*Look at the time. It's two o'clock. They aren't going to come now.*

## Practice

A Paul has decided what he's going to do in his life. Complete the sentences, using short forms of **be going to** and the verbs in brackets ( ).

- ▶ I'm going to study ..... (study) music at university.
- 1 I ..... (travel) all over the world.
- 2 I ..... (not/work) in an office.
- 3 I ..... (marry) a very rich woman.
- 4 We ..... (have) eleven boys.
- 5 They ..... (become) a football team.
- 6 They ..... (win) the World Cup.
- 7 I ..... (play) the piano every night in a cafe.
- 8 My wife ..... (not/cook) or clean.
- 9 We ..... (eat) in restaurants every day.

B Write positive sentences with short forms of **be going to** and the words in brackets ( ).

- ▶ (I/see/a film tonight) I'm going to see a film tonight.
- 1 (She/buy/a new car tomorrow) .....
- 2 (They/work/hard this year) .....
- 3 (It/rain/this afternoon) .....

Write negative sentences with short forms of *be going to*.

- (They/not/catch/that train!) They're not going to catch that train!.....
- 4 (Paul/not/drive/to Scotland.) .....
- 5 (We/not/finish/it today.) .....
- 6 (She/not/buy/a new house.) .....

Write questions with *be going to*.

- (you/have/a holiday this year?) Are you going to have a holiday this year?.....
- 7 (they/win/the match?) .....
- 8 (Mary/leave/her job?) .....
- 9 (you/take/the exam in June?) .....

C Keiko is Japanese. She's going to spend a week by the sea in England. Ask her some questions. Use *be going to*, the verbs in brackets ( ), and the words in the box.

an umbrella	in a luxury hotel	to a disco	fish and chips
in the sea	a lot of English	golf every day	

- (speak) Are you going to speak a lot of English?.....
- 1 (play) .....
- 2 (take) .....
- 3 (swim) .....
- 4 (eat) .....
- 5 (stay) .....
- 6 (go) .....

D Match the words in the box with the pictures, and write a sentence using short forms of *be going to*.

It/rain
They/eat/a pizza
They/not/play/tennis
He/not/win/the race
She/have/a swim
They/watch/a film
He/make/a phone call
He/play/the piano



- He's going to make a phone call.....
- 1 .....
- 2 .....
- 3 .....
- 4 .....
- 5 .....
- 6 .....
- 7 .....