

21 Be going to

Tenses:
future

- 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

