

60 Comparing future forms

1 Possible/certain future

will	going to
for talking about what we think will happen: 	for talking about something we are sure will happen because we can see it now: 

2 Plans and arrangements

going to	PRESENT CONTINUOUS
for talking about things we plan to do but have not arranged yet:  (This is my plan, but I haven't arranged it yet.)	for talking about future things we have already arranged:  (This is an arrangement, Mr Gaafur has already given me a job.)

NATURAL ENGLISH When we ask someone about their plans for the evening or the weekend (the near future), it is more common to use the present continuous than *going to*:
What are you doing this weekend?
Are you doing anything tonight?

3 Immediate decisions

⚠ We use *will* for immediate decisions, not the present simple or *going to*:
✗ *OK. I get the torch.*
The light isn't working. ✗ *OK. I'm going to get the torch.*
✓ *OK. I'll get the torch.*

Compare *going to* for plans and *will* for immediate decisions:
'My football shirt's dirty.'

'Don't worry. I'm going to do some washing this afternoon so I'll put your shirt in the machine.'
(I've already planned to do some washing.)

Practice

1 Match the sentences 1 and 2 with A and B.

0 1 It will probably stop working soon.	→ A I can see smoke coming from it.
2 That machine's going to stop working.	→ B It was very cheap.
1 1 It'll rain today.	→ A I can see lots of dark clouds.
2 It's going to rain today.	→ B It always rains on my birthday!
2 1 Marco will be the manager one day.	→ A I've just had an email from the office.
2 Marco's going to be our new manager.	→ B He's a very good worker.

2 GRAMMAR IN USE Complete the conversation. Use the verbs in the box with *will* or *going to*. Use short forms.

CARRIE Have you got any plans for the weekend?

ZACK Not really. I (0) *'m going to wait*... until my sister arrives. I'm not sure what she wants to do.

CARRIE She (1) the weekend here, isn't she?

ZACK Yes. She (2) me all her holiday photos.

CARRIE Well, if the weather's good tomorrow, you can go for a nice walk.

ZACK Yes, but look at those dark clouds. It (3) tonight.

CARRIE Maybe. I (4) on the Internet and see what they say about tomorrow's weather. Oh, what's that noise?

ZACK I think there's someone at the door.

CARRIE I (5) it. ... It's a letter for you. What is it?

ZACK I (6) it now. Oh, it's our concert tickets. Marek's ticket is here as well. I (7) him now and tell him.

answer look open phone
rain show spend wait

3 GRAMMAR IN USE Complete the email. Use the verbs in brackets () with *will* or in the present continuous.



Subject Our Highlands tour

Hi Danny,

I'm so excited that you (0) *'re coming*... (come) with us on the Highlands tour tomorrow! The bus (1) (pick us up) at eight, so make sure you're up in time. Don't worry about breakfast because we (2) (stop) at a motorway café at nine o'clock, so we can eat then. I don't know exactly what is included in this tour, but I think we (3) (probably / see) at least three or four castles – they're on the website. I know we (4) (visit) Loch Ness because I saw it on the programme. We might see the monster! In fact, according to the programme, we (5) (spend) half an hour at the Loch Ness Monster exhibition in the afternoon. It often rains in the Highlands at this time of year so it (6) (probably / rain) tomorrow, but I (7) (not take) an umbrella – I don't want to carry it around all day! I don't know what time the tour ends but it (8) (be) dark by seven o'clock, so I think we (9) (be) home by then.

See you tomorrow. Michaela X

