



Will vs. Be Going To



Will

Express future actions decided at the moment of speaking (Immediate Decisions)

I'll have salad now.



Express a prediction based on personal opinions or experiences (Predictions without Evidence)

I think United will win the game.



A future fact

The sun will rise tomorrow.



A promise

I promise I won't tell anyone you broke the glass.



An offer

I'll take you to the airport tomorrow.



A threat

I'll tell your parents what you did.



A refusal

No, I won't cook your dinner, you can cook it yourself.



Be Going To

Express future plans decided before the moment of speaking (Prior Plans)

I'm going to visit my aunt next Friday.



Express a prediction based on present evidence (Predictions with Evidence)

Look at those black clouds. It is going to rain.



Something is about to happen

Get back! The bomb is going to explode.



Both Will and Be Going to can be used for making future predictions without having a real difference in meaning.

I think it will be foggy tomorrow.
= I think it is going to be foggy tomorrow.



Going to for predictions

But I'm going to talk about another aspect or another use of going to, which is to talk about predictions in the future. And perhaps we can divide the use of going to talk about predictions into two areas. First of all, there are general predictions. In the future,

✚ I believe there are going to be cars that can fly.

But here we can use will as well, it's really interchangeable. That means that we can use one or the other - will or going to in the future,

✓ I believe there will be cars that can fly.

✓ I think it's going to rain next week, or, I think it will rain next week

There's another use of going to which is more specific. And where we can't usually use will. And this is when we have some evidence in front of us, which gives us information about what is going to happen. So that's what it is - evidence, it's information. And we can see it or we can hear it, or we have that information

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Pictures for predictions with 'going to' or 'will'.



Let's analyze the pictures above

1. So in the first photo, you can see a picture of a pregnant woman, so the prediction is quite straightforward, isn't it? And the prediction is that,

✓ she's going to have a baby.

2. The next picture is a picture of a woman in a spacesuit. So she's an astronaut. And if we make a prediction about this woman dressed up like that, well, it's quite straightforward again, isn't it? We can see that

✓ she's going to get into a space shuttle and fly into space.

3. The next one we can see is a gentleman chopping onions on a chopping board. So presumably, he's going to make a meal.

✓ He's going to make a meal.

4. The next one is, well, it's a dark sky. The clouds are very dark or black even. So we can make a prediction about the weather.

✓ Look at those clouds. It's going to rain.

5. There's a woman there. She seems to have broken down on the road. But she's a very capable woman. She's opened the bonnet of the car, and she's going to fix the car.

✓ She's going to fix it.

6. Perhaps we can't even see the plane. But maybe if we are somewhere, perhaps in the airport or near the airport, and we can hear the roar of the engines. Well,

perhaps we can also make the prediction. Can you hear that? **That's a plane, it's going to land.** so you don't have to see it. You can hear it as well.

7. There are a lot of plastic bottles and plastic things all over the beach. But we can see some people while they're already picking up that rubbish and putting it all into bags. If we make a prediction, we can say that

✓ they're going to clean up the beach.



<https://www.woodwardenglish.com/lesson/will-vs-going-to/>

video

+ Affirmative

will + verb *

* The base form
of the infinitive
= ~~to go~~, ~~to study~~,
~~to speak~~, etc.

I will go there tomorrow.	
You will go there on Friday.	
He will go there next week.	
She will go there next month.	You will to go . ❌
It will go there next year.	You will go. ✅
We will go there later.	He will goes . ❌
They will go there soon.	He will go. ✅

In spoken English, a contraction of **WILL** is often used.

I will → I'll	I will go there tomorrow.
You will → You'll	I'll go there tomorrow.
He will → He'll	We will see you later.
She will → She'll	We'll see you later.
It will → It'll	He will help you soon.
We will → We'll	He'll help you soon.
They will → They'll	

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AnAXnlepRRw>

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/FP3qQaeT1tw>



WILL

– Negative

Compare these sentences:

+ Affirmative: I **will** be ready in five minutes.

– Negative: I **will not** be ready in five minutes.

– Negative: I **won't** be ready in five minutes.

+ Affirmative: She **will** arrive on time.

– Negative: She **will not** arrive on time.

– Negative: She **won't** arrive on time.



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In spoken English, the contraction **WON'T** is used more.

I	will	→	I	will not	=	I	won't
You	will	→	You	will not	=	You	won't
He	will	→	He	will not	=	He	won't
She	will	→	She	will not	=	She	won't
It	will	→	It	will not	=	It	won't
We	will	→	We	will not	=	We	won't
They	will	→	They	will not	=	They	won't



? Questions

Just like with other modal verbs, we change the order of the SUBJECT and WILL to make it a question.

+ Affirmative: You **will** tell us the truth.

? Question: **Will** you tell us the truth?

Yes, I will. ✓

Yes, ~~I'll~~. ✗

No, I won't.

We don't use a contraction with affirmative short answers.

+ Affirmative: He **will** visit us.

? Question: **Will** he visit us? Yes, he will.

? Question: When **will** he visit us?

On Friday.

= He will visit us on Friday.



WATCH VIDEO

Click the "Play" Button

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fiuc8ae0YjA>

- (b) Alex *will probably finish* his homework.
Alex *is probably going to finish* his homework.



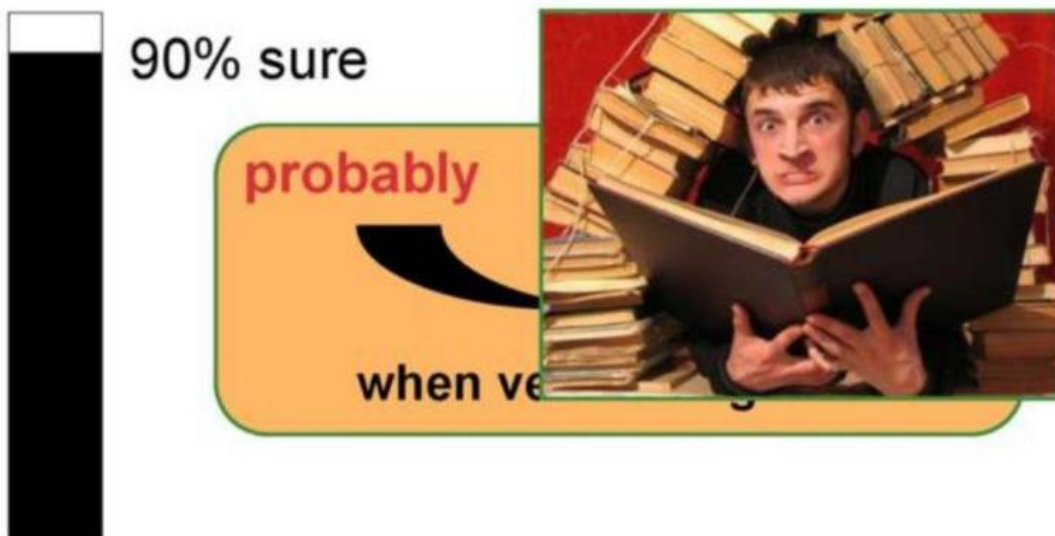
90% sure

helping verb

probably



- (c) Alex **probably** *won't finish* his homework.
Alex **probably** *isn't going to finish* his homework.



- (e) **Maybe** Lee *will quit* his job,
and **maybe** he *won't*.

OR

Maybe Lee *is going to quit* his job,
and **maybe** he *isn't*.

maybe + will
maybe + be going to
may

} same meaning