

23 Will or be going to

Compare will and be going to:

1 We use will with an infinitive (do, go, be, arrive, etc.):

INFINITIVE

John will arrive tomorrow.

2 We use will for actions that we decide to do now, at the moment of speaking:

past

now

speaking

decision

I like this coat. I think I'll buy it.

A: *What would you like to eat?*

B: *I'll have a pizza, please.*

We can use will for offers and promises:

I'll carry your case for you. (OFFER)

I won't forget your birthday again. (PROMISE)

3 We use will to talk about things that we think or believe will happen in the future:

I'm sure you'll enjoy the film.

I'm sure it won't rain tomorrow. It'll be another beautiful, sunny day.

We use be going with to + infinitive (to do, to be, to rain, etc.):

to + INFINITIVE

It's going to rain soon.

My friends are going to come tonight.

It isn't going to rain today.

What are you going to do on Sunday?

We use be going to for actions that we have decided to do BEFORE we speak:

past

decision

now

speaking

I'm going to clean my room this afternoon.

(I decided to clean it this morning.)

We can ask questions about people's plans:

Are you going to take the three o'clock train?

(= Have you decided to take the three o'clock train?)

We use be going to for something that we expect to happen, because the situation now indicates that it is going to happen:

He's running towards the goal, and he's going to score.

Practice

A Complete the sentences, using the words in brackets () and 'll or a form of be going to.

► A: Are you going to watch TV tonight?

B: Yes, I'm going to watch (I/watch) my favourite programme at nine o'clock.

1 A: What (you/eat) tonight? What food have you bought?

B: I haven't bought any food. A: Well, why don't you come to my house?
..... (I/cook) us something nice to eat.

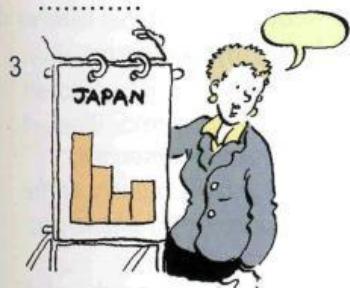
2 A: I'm going into the centre of town tomorrow. (I/buy) some new clothes. B: Oh, what (you/get)? A: (I/look) for a T-shirt and some jeans. B: I'd like to go into the centre too.
..... (I/come) with you.

3 A: (I/leave) work late tomorrow. There is a meeting at six p.m.
B: Oh, I didn't know that. Well, (I/see) you after the meeting.

4 (I/phone) Tom at six o'clock. I promised to phone him this evening.

5 A: Are you going to have a holiday in the summer?
B: Yes, (I/travel) around Europe with a friend.

B Look at these office scenes. Choose the correct situation for each scene, then choose the correct sentence and cross out that which is incorrect.



► Relax, I'll answer it./ Relax, I'm going to answer it.

- a You look hot, I'll open a window./You look hot, I'm going to open a window.
- b Next year, we're going to enter the Japanese market./Next year, we'll enter the Japanese market.
- c Thanks, I'm going to have an orange juice./Thanks, I'll have an orange juice.
- d Have a rest, I'm going to do the photocopying./Have a rest, I'll do the photocopying.
- e Thursday is no good for me, I'm afraid. I'll meet the new manager of our Tokyo office./Thursday is no good for me, I'm afraid. I'm going to meet the new manager of our Tokyo office.

C You are at a party. Here are some of the questions you are asked. Reply using *will* or *be going to*.

► A: Hi, nice to see you. Would you like a drink?

B: (I/have/a coke, please) I'll have a coke, please.

1 A: What are you doing these days?

B: (Nothing much, but I/start/a new job soon)

2 A: Would you like something to eat?

B: (Thanks, I/have/a sandwich)

3 A: What are your plans for the weekend?

B: (I/do/some shopping tomorrow and I/go/for a swim on Sunday)

.....

4 A: Why is Maria standing by the piano?

B: (She/sing/, I'm afraid)

5 A: This cake looks delicious. Are you going to have some?

B: (No, but I'm sure you/enjoy/it)

6 A: How are you getting home?

B: (David/give/me a lift)