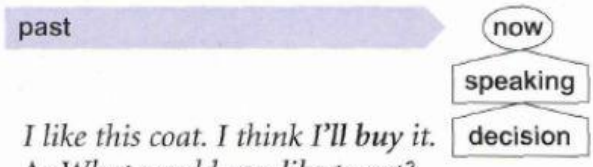
Will or be going to

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:



*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:

*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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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.

▶

1

2

....

3

4

5

....

▶ 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) .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS