

# 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 .....

