

future forms: present continuous, be going to, will / won't

be going to + infinitive

future plans and intentions

1.16

My sister's **going to adopt** a child.

Are you going to buy a new car or a second-hand one?

I'm **not going to go** home for the holidays. It's too far.

predictions

1.17

Barcelona **are going to win**. They're playing really well.

Look at those black clouds. I think it's **going to rain**.

- We use **be going to** (**NOT** *will / won't*) when we have already decided to do something. **NOT** *My sister will adopt a child.*
- We also use **be going to** to make a prediction about the future, especially when we have some evidence (e.g. *we can see black clouds*).

present continuous: be + verb + -ing

future arrangements

1.18

Lorna and Jamie **are getting** married in October.

We're **meeting** at 10.00 tomorrow in Richard's office.

Jane's **leaving** on Friday and **coming back** next Tuesday.

- We often use the present continuous for future arrangements.
- There is very little difference between the present continuous and **be going to** for future plans / arrangements and often you can use either.
 - **be going to** shows that you have made a decision.
We're going to get married next year.
 - the present continuous emphasizes that you have made the arrangements.
We're getting married on October 12th. (= we've booked the church)
- We often use the present continuous with verbs relating to travel arrangements, e.g. *go, come, arrive, leave, etc.*
He's arriving tomorrow and leaving on Thursday.

will / shall + infinitive



instant decisions, promises, offers, predictions, future facts, suggestions

1.19

- 1 I'll **have** the steak. (instant decision)
I **won't tell** anybody where you are. (promise)
I'll **carry** that bag for you. (offer)
You'll **love** New York! (prediction)
Next year Christmas Day **will be** on a Thursday. (future fact)
- 2 **Shall I help** you with your homework? (offer)
Shall we eat out tonight? (suggestion)

- 1 We use **will / won't** (**NOT** the present simple) for instant decisions, promises, and offers. **NOT** *I carry that bag for you.*
- We can also use **will / won't** for predictions, e.g. *I think Barcelona will win*, and to talk about future facts, e.g. *The election will be on 1st March.*
- 2 We use **shall** (**NOT** *will*) with *I* and *we* for offers and suggestions when they are questions.

a Circle the correct form. Tick (✓) the sentence if both are possible.

The exam (will be) / is being on the last Friday of term.

- 1 Will / Shall we invite your parents for Sunday lunch?
- 2 A It's Alice's birthday tomorrow.
B Oh, really? I 'm making / 'll make a cake.
- 3 I 'm not having / 'm not going to have dinner with my family tonight.
- 4 Are you going to go / Will you go to Jo's party next weekend?
- 5 You can trust me. I 'm not telling / won't tell anyone what you told me.
- 6 A What are you doing on Sunday?
B We 're visiting / 'll visit my grandparents.
- 7 I think the birth rate will go down / is going down in my country in the next few years.
- 8 My grandfather is going to retire / retiring at the end of the month.
- 9 Shall / Will I help you with the washing-up?

b Complete B's responses with a correct future form.

- A What's your mother going to do about her car?
B She's **going to buy** a second-hand one. (buy)
- 1 A I'm going to miss you. Please stay in touch.
B I promise I _____ every day. (phone)
- 2 A What are Alan's plans for the future?
B He _____ a degree in engineering. (do)
- 3 A Can I see you tonight?
B No, I _____ late. Maybe Saturday? (work)
- 4 A Are you ready to order?
B Yes, I _____ the prawns, please. (have)
- 5 A There's nothing in the fridge.
B OK. _____ we _____ a takeaway? (get)
- 6 A I don't have any money, so I can't go out.
B No problem, I _____ you some. (lend)
- 7 A Shall we have a barbecue tomorrow?
B No, the weather forecast says it _____. (rain)
- 8 A We land at about 8.00.
B _____ I _____ you up from the airport? (pick)