

Going to

Going to is not a tense. It is a special structure that we use to talk about the future.

The structure of *going to* is:

subject + *be* + *going* + to-infinitive

Examples:

- *I'm going to buy a new car.*
- *He isn't going to read it.*
- *Are you going to study at university?*

How do we use *going to*?

1. intention	We use <i>going to</i> when we have the intention to do something before we speak. We have already made a decision before speaking. We had an intention or plan before speaking. The decision was made before speaking. Examples: • <i>Jo has won the lottery. He says he's going to buy a Porsche.</i> • <i>We're not going to paint our bedroom tomorrow.</i> • <i>When are you going to go on holiday?</i>
2. prediction	We often use <i>going to</i> to make a prediction about the future. Our prediction is based on present evidence. We are saying what we think will happen. In the examples given below, the present situation (black sky, the time, damaged car) gives us a good idea of what is going to happen. Examples: • <i>The sky is very black. It's going to snow.</i> • <i>It's 8.30! You're going to miss your train!</i> • <i>I crashed the company car. My boss isn't going to be very happy!</i>

Exercise 1

Make the sentences. What are the people going to do? (Do not use contracted forms)

Example: Mary / study for her exam

Mary is going to study for her exam.

1. I / buy a new house

2. my wife / not travel round the world

3. Mary / paint her kitchen
4. I / not do the washing up today
5. she / borrow some money from him
6. Paul / have a look at it
7. I / not think about it
8. they / not lend him a car
9. my father / get up early
10. we / study English every day

Example 2

Complete the sentences using „going to“ and the verb in brackets. (Do not use contracted forms.)

1. Hurry up! We _____ the bus. (miss)
2. I'm very tired. I _____ at home this evening. (stay)
3. It's very cold. They _____ in the garden this afternoon. (not work)
4. My brother loves animals. He _____ a vet. (be)
5. It's my birthday next Saturday. My friend _____ dinner for me. (cook)
6. We haven't got much money. We _____ a new car. (not buy)
7. Alan's going to university next year. He _____ law. (study)
8. We don't study. We _____ the exam. (not pass)
9. They don't like living in the city. They _____ to the country. (move)
10. He isn't interested in medicine. He _____ a doctor. (not be)