



A1 Will and Going To Explanations

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‘Will’ Forms

We make the future simple tense using ‘will + infinitive’.

Here’s the positive form.

- I will meet him later.
- You will come.
- It will rain tomorrow.
- She will be late.
- He will help us later.
- We will get married in September.
- They will cook dinner.

The short form ‘ll is very, very common, and is almost always used when speaking. It’s really much more natural to say ‘I’ll’ instead of ‘I will’.

- I’ll meet him later.
- You’ll come.
- It’ll rain tomorrow.
- She’ll be late.
- He’ll help us later.
- We’ll get married in September.
- They’ll cook dinner.

To make the negative, add ‘not’.

- I will not go.
- You will not be late.
- It will not snow tomorrow.
- She will not get the job.
- He will not pass the exam.
- We will not come.
- They will not stop.

The negative short form is 'won't'. This is much more common than 'will not'.

- I won't go.
- You won't be late.
- It won't snow tomorrow.
- She won't get the job.
- He won't pass the exam.
- We won't come.
- They won't stop.

To make 'yes / no' questions, move 'will' before the subject.

- Will I go?
- Will you come early?
- Will it be cold?
- Will she dance?
- Will he arrive soon?
- Will we cook?
- Will they leave?

To make 'wh' questions, put a question word before 'will'.

- Where will I go?
- Why will you come early?
- When will it be cold?
- Who will she dance with?
- What time will he arrive?
- What will we cook?
- When will they leave?



‘Will’ Use: Prediction

We can use the future simple with ‘will’ to make a guess about the future. We can use it for things we think might happen or things that we are sure will happen.

We often say ‘I think’ or use words like ‘certainly’ or ‘probably’ with ‘will’.

- The sun will set at 5:48.
- She’ll be four years old next month.
- I think Julie will win the race.
- The Conservatives won’t win the election.
- It’ll probably rain this afternoon.



‘Will’ Use: Decisions at the Moment of Speaking

In a similar way, we often use ‘will’ when we’re talking about a decision at the moment of speaking. Usually, we decide something because of what someone has said or because of something that has happened.

- A: I’m cold. B: I’ll close the window.
- <Phone rings> I’ll get it!



‘Going to’ Forms

We also use the verb ‘go’ with ‘to’ and an infinitive to talk about the future. We use the present continuous of ‘go’ + to + infinitive. Here’s the positive form.

- I am going to play tennis.
- You are going to buy books.
- He is going to drink coffee.
- She is going to study English.
- It is going to rain.
- We are going to have dinner.
- They are going to come to our house.

We often use the short forms of ‘be’.

- I’m going to play tennis.
- You’re going to buy books.
- He’s going to drink coffee.
- She’s going to study English.
- It’s going to rain.
- We’re going to have dinner.
- They’re going to come to our house.

When we’re speaking informally, we often shorten ‘going to’ to ‘gonna’. This isn’t correct in writing.

- I’m gonna play tennis.

For the negative form, we add ‘not’.

- I am not going to see him later.
- You are not going to come to the party.

- He is not going to meet the boss.
- She is not going to clean the kitchen.
- It is not going to snow.
- We are not going to be late.
- They are not going to take the bus.

There are two ways to make the short form (except for 'I', which only has one).

- I'm not going to see him later.
- You're not going to come to the party. / You aren't going to come to the party.
- He's not going to meet the boss. / He isn't going to meet the boss.
- She's not going to clean the kitchen. / She isn't going to clean the kitchen.
- It's not going to snow. / It isn't going to snow.
- We're not going to be late. / We aren't going to be late.
- They're not going to take the bus. / They aren't going to take the bus.

We can again use 'gonna' in informal spoken language.

- I'm not gonna see him later.

To make the question, it's the same as the present continuous. Here are the yes/no questions.

- Am I going to see you tonight?
- Are you going to come to the party?
- Is he going to work late?
- Is she going to meet us?
- Is it going to snow?
- Are we going to pass the exam?
- Are they going to sit in the garden all day?



For 'wh' questions, we add the question word.

- When am I going to see you?
- What are you going to do?
- Why is he going to leave?
- Who is she going to meet?
- What time is it going to rain?
- How long are we going to stay?
- Where are they going to go?



‘Going to’ Use: Plans and Intentions

We often use ‘be going to’ to talk about our future intentions and plans. We have usually made our plans before the moment of speaking. In this case, ‘be going to’ means the same as ‘plan to’.

- A: We’ve run out of milk. B: I know, I’m going to buy some.
- I’m going to go to Germany next year.
- Are you going to take the train or the bus tomorrow?
- There’s going to be a test today.



‘Will’ or ‘Going to’?

Often, it’s absolutely fine to use either ‘will’ or ‘going to’ and it makes no difference to the meaning. However, here are some situations when one is more natural than the other.

Will	Going to
Predictions with ‘will’: we are more likely to use ‘will’ when we give our opinion about the future	Prediction: we are more likely to use ‘going to’ when our ideas come from something we can see.
We use ‘will’ for things we decide while we’re speaking or just before.	We use ‘going to’ for things we have already planned.
We use ‘will’ with offers, requests, refusals and promises.	