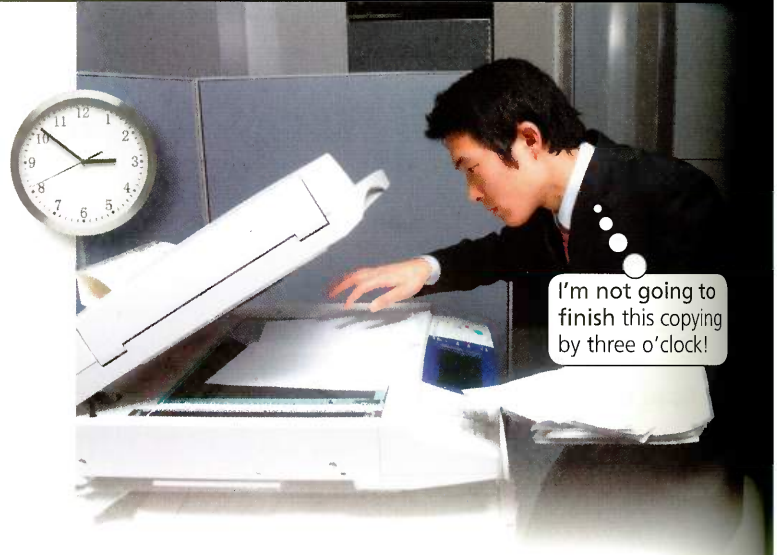
57 Future with *going to*



1 Form

POSITIVE			NEGATIVE		
I	*am ('m)*		*I*	*am not ('m not)*	
He/She/It	*is ('s)*	*going to win.*	*He/She/It*	*is not (isn't)*	*going to win.*
We/You/They	*are ('re)*		*We/You/They*	*are not (aren't)*	

QUESTIONS			SHORT ANSWERS	
Am	*I*		*Yes, I am.*	*No, I'm not.*
Is	*he/she/it*	*going to win?*	*Yes, he/she/it is.*	*No, he/she/it isn't.*
Are	*we/you/they*		*Yes, we/you/they are.*	*No, we/you/they aren't.*

2 Future plans

We use *going to* to talk about our future plans:
*I'm **going to** apply for a new job.*
*Carol **isn't going to be** at the meeting.*
*Are you **going to come** to the party?*

We often use time expressions (e.g. *tomorrow*, *next week*, *on Monday*) with *going to*:
*I'm going to see Manchester United **on Saturday**.*
*They're not going to have a summer holiday **this year**.*
*What are you going to do **this evening**?*

NATURAL ENGLISH It is possible to use *going to* + *go*/*come*:
*I'm **going to go** shopping this afternoon.*
But the present continuous (➤ Unit 59) is more common:
*I'm **going** shopping this afternoon.*
*I'm **coming** to London on Tuesday.*

3 Things we expect to happen

We also use *going to* to talk about things we expect to happen in the future because of something we know or can see NOW:
*I'm **not going to finish** this copying by three o'clock!* (because it's 2.51 and there's a lot to do)
*I'm **going to be** late for work.* (because I'm in a traffic jam now)
*It's **going to rain**.* (because the sky is dark and full of clouds now)

Future with *will* ➤ Unit 58

In informal conversation and in songs we often pronounce *going to* as 'gonna' /gənə/.

Pronunciation ➤ 1.22