

going to for prediction

Going to can express a prediction based on a present fact. There is evidence now that something is sure to happen.

Careful! That glass **is going to fall** over. Too late!
Look at that blue sky! It's **going to be** a lovely day.

Notes

- Sometimes there is little or no difference between *will* and *going to*.

We'll run | out of money if we aren't careful.
We're going to run

- We use *going to* when we have physical evidence to support our prediction.

Liverpool **are going to win**. (It's 4-0, and there are only five minutes left.)
That glass **is going to fall**. (It's rolling to the edge of the table.)

- We can use *will* when there is no such outside evidence. Our prediction is based on our own personal opinion.

I'm sure you'll **have** a good time at the wedding. (This is my opinion.)
I reckon Liverpool **will win**. (Said the day before the match.)

- Compare the sentences.

I bet John **will be** late home. The traffic is always bad at this time.
(= my opinion)
John's **going to be** late home. He left a message on my voicemail.
(= a fact)
Don't lend Keith your car. He'll **crash** it. (= a theoretical prediction)
Look out! We're **going to crash!** (= a prediction based on evidence)

Decisions and intentions – will and going to

- Will* expresses a decision or intention made at the moment of speaking.

There's someone at the door. I'll **phone** you back in a minute.
'The phone's ringing.' 'I'll **get** it.'

- Going to* is used to express a future plan, decision, or intention made before the moment of speaking.

When she leaves school, she's **going to train** as an actor.
We're **going to get** married in the spring.

Other uses of will and shall

- Will* as a prediction is an auxiliary verb that simply shows future time. The word itself has no real meaning.

Tomorrow **will be** cold and windy.

- Will* is also a modal auxiliary verb, and so it can express a variety of meanings.

I'll **help** you carry those bags. (= offer)
Will you **marry** me? (= willingness)
Will you **open** the window? (= request)
My car **won't start**. (= refusal)
I'll **love** you for ever. (= promise)
'The phone's ringing.' 'It'll **be** for me.' (= prediction about the present)

- Shall* is found mainly in questions. It is used with *I* and *we*.

Where **shall I put** your tea? (I'm asking for instructions.)
What **shall we do** tonight? (I'm asking for a decision.)
Shall I cook supper tonight? (I'm offering to help.)
Shall we eat out tonight? (I'm making a suggestion.)

Present Continuous for arrangements

- The Present Continuous is used to express personal arrangements and fixed plans, especially when the time and place have been decided.

I'm **having** lunch with Mark tomorrow.
What time **are you meeting** him?
What **are you doing** tonight?

- The Present Continuous is used to refer to arrangements between people. It is not used to refer to events that people can't control.

It's **going to rain** this afternoon. *It's raining this afternoon.
The sun **rises** at 5.30 tomorrow. *The sun is rising ...

Notes

- Sometimes there is little or no difference between the Present Continuous and *going to* to refer to the future.

We're **seeing** | Hamlet at the theatre tonight.
We're **going to see**

- When there is a difference, the Present Continuous emphasizes an arrangement; *going to* expresses a person's intentions.

I'm **seeing** my girlfriend tonight.
I'm **going** to ask her to marry me. *I'm asking ...
What **are you doing** this weekend?
What **are you going to do** about the broken toilet? (= What have you decided to do?)

Present Simple for timetables

- The Present Simple refers to a future event that is seen as unalterable because it is based on a timetable or calendar.

My flight **leaves** at 10.00.
Term **starts** on April 4.
What time **does** the film **start**?

- It is used in subordinate clauses introduced by conjunctions such as *if*, *when*, *before*, *as soon as*, *unless*, etc.

We'll have a picnic if the weather **stays** fine.
When I **get** home, I'll cook the dinner.
I'll leave as soon as it **stops** raining.

Future Continuous

- The Future Continuous expresses an activity that will be in progress before and after a time in the future.

Don't phone at 8.00. We'll **be having** supper.
This time tomorrow I'll **be flying** to New York.

- The Future Continuous is used to refer to a future event that will happen in the natural course of events. This use is uncoloured by ideas such as intention, decision, arrangement, or willingness. As time goes by, this event will occur.

Stay and meet Pat. He'll **be arriving** any minute now.
We'll **be going** right back to the football after the break. (said on TV)

Future Perfect

The Future Perfect refers to an action that will be completed before a definite time in the future. It is not a very common verb form.

I'll **have done** all my work by this evening.
It's our anniversary next month. We'll **have been married** ten years.

Unit 6

6.1 Expressing quantity

Quantifiers

- The following can be used before a noun.

some/any	much/many	each/every	more/most
a little/little	a few/few	both	fewer/less
several	all/no	enough	