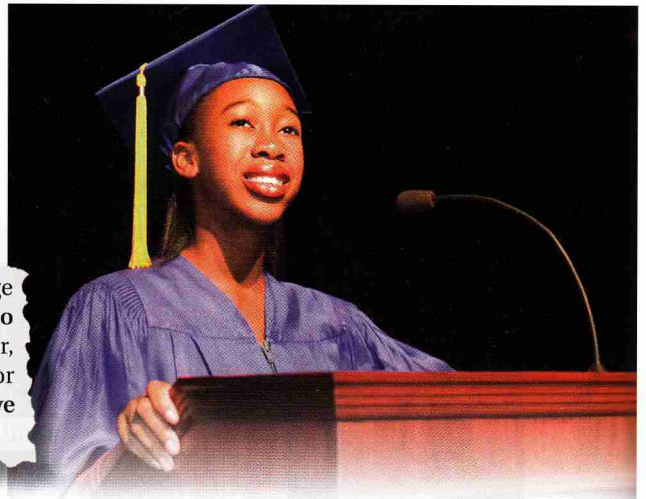


27 Decisions, intentions and arrangements



Local student Shona Johnson is **leaving** college in June to start a career in politics. Shona is **to start** an internship at the Senate in September, where she **will be working** with the Senator for Wisconsin. Shona says she **is going to carve out** a big career for herself!

1 Future simple *will/won't* + infinitive

We can talk about spontaneous decisions with this form:

You look tired. I'll cook dinner tonight.

To ask questions about decisions, we can use *shall I/we*: ***Shall I*** see you next week, then?

We can use *will/won't* + infinitive to strengthen meaning, and to express determination:

*I **will join** you all at the festival at the weekend, whatever my parents say!*

*If you insist on lying, I certainly **won't help** you.*

In speech we usually stress *will/won't* when we use this form to express determination.



We do not usually contract *will* to 'll with this use, except with a stressed adverb:

*He'll **never agree** to that!*

FORMALITY CHECK It is possible to use this form for very formal arrangements:

*Cabinet **will meet** tomorrow to discuss the issue of identity cards.*

FORMALITY CHECK We can also use *shall/shall not* with *I* and *we* to express determination, especially in a formal context:

*The purpose of this interview is to give my views on the economy. I **shall** therefore **not** be drawn into discussing my personal life.*



Pronunciation ► 1.07

2 *be going to* + infinitive

We use *be going to* + infinitive for actions that we have already decided to do:

*My nephew **is going to study** environmental law next year. (This is his plan/intention.)*

*The police **aren't going to prosecute** those youths after all. (They have decided against it.)*

We stress auxiliary *be* or *not* to express determination about something we have already decided on:

*I **am going to leave**. I'm **not going to stay** here any longer, so don't try to make me!*



Pronunciation ► 1.08



We usually avoid *be going to* with the verbs *go* and *come*:

[I'm going to go home now. Are you going to come?]

✓ I'm going home now. Are you coming?

3 Present continuous and *be going to*

We use the present continuous to describe an event in the future which has already been arranged by the time of speaking:

*We're **seeing** a musical at the theatre next week. (We've got the tickets.)*

Compare this with the use of *be going to*:

*We're **going to see** a musical at the theatre sometime next week.*

(It may or may not be arranged yet; the emphasis is on our intention.)