



# Introduction to Future Forms

*College of Agriculture  
Department of Agricultural Machines  
English\_3  
Lecture #7*

# Introduction to Future Forms

There is no future tense in English as there is in many European languages. However, English has several forms that can refer to the future. Three of these are *will*, *going to*, and the Present Continuous.

*I'll see you later.* (will)

*We're going to see a film tonight. Do you want to come?* (going to)

*I'm seeing the doctor tomorrow evening.* (Present Continuous)

The difference between them is *not* about near or distant future, or about certainty. The speaker chooses a future form depending on how the speaker sees the future event. Is it a plan, a decision, an intention, an offer, a prediction, or an arrangement? This is the important question to ask when choosing a future form. There is more about this in Use below.

# Will/ going to and Present Continuous

## Form

### Positive and negative

I He They	'll won't	help you. watch TV tonight.
I'm/I'm not She's/She isn't We're/We aren't	going to	
I'm/I'm not He's/He isn't You're/You aren't	catching the 10 o'clock train.	

## Question

What time	will you are you going to	arrive?
	are you meeting the manager?	

## Note

We avoid saying *going to come* or *going to go*.

*We're coming tomorrow.*

*When are you going home?*

## Use

### Plans, decisions, and intentions (*will* and *going to*)

#### *will*

*Will* is used as a modal auxiliary verb to express a decision, intention, or offer made at the moment of speaking. We saw this use in Unit 4. (See 4.4.) Remember that you can't use the present tense for this use.

*I'll have the steak, please.*

NOT ~~*I have the steak.*~~

*I'll see you tomorrow. Bye!*

NOT ~~*I see you tomorrow.*~~

*Give me a call sometime. We'll go out for coffee.*

*'Jeff, there's someone at the door!' 'OK, I'll get it.'*

### *going to*

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

*When I grow up, I'm going to be a doctor.*

*Jane and Peter are going to get married after they graduate.*

*We're going to paint this room blue.*

# *Fact and Predictions (will and going to)*

## ***will***

The most common use of *will* is as an auxiliary verb to show future time. It expresses a future fact or prediction. It is called the pure future or the Future Simple.

*We'll **be** away for two weeks.*

*Those flowers **won't grow** under the tree. It's too dark.*

*Our love **will last** forever.*

*You'll **be** sick if you eat all those sweets!*

*Will for a prediction can be based more on an opinion than a fact.*

*I don't think Laura **will do** very well in her exam. She doesn't do any work.*

*I am convinced that inflation **will fall** to three per cent next year.*

***going to***

*Going to* can also express a prediction, especially when it is based on a present fact. There is evidence now that something is certain to happen.

*She's going to have a baby.* (We can see she's pregnant.)

*Our team is going to win the match.* (It's four-nil, and there are only five minutes left to play.)

*It isn't going to rain today.* (Look at that beautiful blue sky.)

**Note**

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

This government	will ruin is going to ruin	the country with its stupid economic policies.
-----------------	-------------------------------	---

## *Arrangements (Present Continuous)*

The Present Continuous can be used to express a future arrangement between people. It usually refers to the near future.

*We're going out with Jeremy tonight.*

*I'm having my hair cut tomorrow.*

*What are we having for lunch?*

Think of the things you might put in your diary to remind you of what you are doing over the next few days and weeks. These are the kinds of events that are often expressed by the Present Continuous for the future. The verbs express some kind of activity or movement.

*I'm meeting Peter tonight.*

*The Taylors are coming for dinner.*

*I'm seeing the doctor in the morning.*

Remember that you can't use the present tense for this use.

*We're going to a party on Saturday night.*

NOT ~~We go to a party on Saturday night.~~

*We're catching the 10 o'clock train.*

NOT ~~We catch the 10 o'clock train.~~

*What are you doing this evening?*

NOT ~~What do you do this evening?~~

Sometimes there is no difference between an agreed arrangement (Present Continuous) and an intention (*going to*).

We're going to get We're getting	married in the spring.
-------------------------------------	------------------------

THANK YOU

