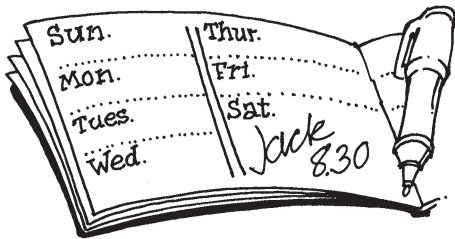


## Future: going to OR will OR present continuous?

My friend is going to live in Italy. That boat is going to sink – there are too many passengers.  
Goodbye. I'll see you tomorrow. – I can't see you tomorrow. I'm playing tennis.

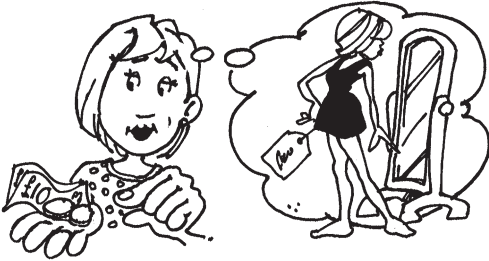


### A Present continuous

Gill's got a new boyfriend, Jack.  
She's looking at her diary.

GILL: **I'm meeting** Jack at 8.30 next Saturday.

- 1 Has Jack agreed to meet Gill next Saturday? .....
- 2 Is Gill talking about a an arrangement OR b a possibility?



### B Going to

Gill wants a new dress for Saturday  
GILL: **I'm going to buy** a new dress.

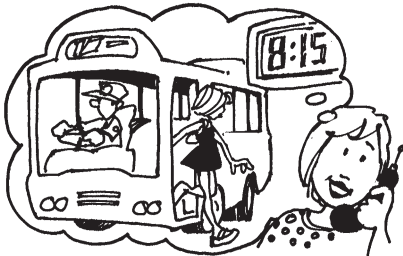
Gill has made a decision. What is her plan now?  
She ..... a new dress.



### C Going to

Gill wants to go into town to buy her dress.  
She's looking at some black clouds.  
GILL: I need an umbrella. **It's going to rain.**

- 1 Is it raining now? .....
- 2 What seems certain because of the black clouds?  
It ..... rain.



### D Will

Gill's phoning Jack about Saturday.  
GILL: I'm getting the 7.45 bus.  
So, **I'll arrive** in town at 8.15.

The bus into town usually takes 30 minutes.  
What time will the 7.45 arrive in town?

It ..... at 8.15. (This is a simple future fact.)



### E Will

GILL: Can you meet me?  
JACK: Yes. **I'll meet** you at the bus station.

Does Jack decide to meet Gill a before she asks the question  
OR b at the moment he speaks?

## REMEMBER!

Match the sentences with the explanations.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 Jack's seeing Gill at 8.30 next Saturday. <input type="checkbox"/>  | a An intention, a plan made <u>before</u> the moment of speaking.                  |
| 2 Gill and Jack <b>will be</b> in town next Saturday evening. <input type="checkbox"/>                              | b An intention, a decision that we make now, at the moment of speaking.            |
| 3 Goodbye, I'll <b>phone</b> you tomorrow. <input type="checkbox"/>   | c A simple future fact.  |
| 4 I'm <b>going to wear</b> my new dress on Saturday. <input type="checkbox"/>                                       | d An arrangement made for a particular time in the future.                         |
| 5 There's a hole in Gill's new dress. She looks very unhappy – she's <b>going to cry</b> . <input type="checkbox"/> | e A future event or action that seems certain because of something we can see now. |

## Future: *going to* OR *will* OR present continuous?

*My friend is going to live in Italy. That boat is going to sink – there are too many passengers. Goodbye. I'll see you tomorrow. – I can't see you tomorrow. I'm playing tennis.*

<b>The problem:</b>	Students confuse these three different ways of talking about the future.	
Typical mistakes:	<i>Don't go to Florida in July. It's <del>going to be</del> too hot.</i>	(It'll be ...)
	<i>I've just heard the weather forecast. It'll <del>rain</del>.</i>	(It's going to ...)
	<i>Can I speak to Gill? – Yes, I'm <del>going to call</del> her.</i>	(I'll call ...)
	<i>I see Jack next Saturday.</i>	(I'm seeing ...)
	<i>What's Gill's number? I'm <del>phoning</del> her.</i>	(I'm going to ...)

- **Different uses of *will/going to/present continuous*** Write these four sentences on the board (don't write the explanations in brackets):

- 1 *I'm seeing the doctor.* (The arrangement has been made some time before.)
- 2 *I'll see the doctor.* (A decision made now at the moment of speaking.)
- 3 *I'm going to see the doctor.* (A decision made before the moment of speaking.)
- 4 *I'll see the doctor.* (A simple future fact.)

Tell students that all four sentences refer to the future.

Help them to put each sentence into a context that explains the use of the present continuous (1), *will* (2), *going to* (3) and *will* (4).

- Examples:
- 1 *I can't come tomorrow evening. I'm seeing the doctor at 6.30.*
  - 2 *Your arm might be broken. – Yes, you're right. I'll see the doctor.*
  - 3 *Can I use your phone? I'm going to see the doctor. I feel really ill.*
  - 4 *Tomorrow I'll be in town at 5.30. I'll see the doctor at 6.00, so I'll get home at 7.00.*

- ***Going to* for imminent events** Check students' understanding of *going to* used in situations where present evidence suggests an imminent future event or action.

Write on the board some leading sentences. Examples:

- 1 *That waiter's carrying too many plates.*
- 2 *Look at that car! He's driving too fast.*

Get the students to suggest sentences to follow the ones on the board. Examples:

- 1 *He's going to drop them. / They're going to fall.*
- 2 *He's going to crash. / He's going to hit that cyclist.*

### Extension

- **Reference to the present** To help students to understand how we talk about the future, you can explain that in most cases we're talking about the present and the future at the same time.

*I'm going to buy a new dress.* (A plan, an intention I have now.)

*She looks very unhappy – she's going to cry.* (A future event that seems certain because of what we can see now.)

*I'll have a coffee, please.* (A decision we make as we speak now.)

*I'm leaving at 6.00 tomorrow.* (An arrangement I've already made – I know now what I'm doing tomorrow.)

The exception is a simple prediction, where we say what will happen in the future. There is no reference to the present: *The world will be very different in 2050.*

#### Answers to WHAT'S THE RULE? 6:

A 1 Yes 2 a B is ('s) going to buy C 1 No 2 is ('s) going to D will arrive E b  
REMEMBER! 1d 2c 3b 4a 5e

## Future: *going to* OR *will* OR present continuous?

*My friend is going to live in Italy. That boat is going to sink – there are too many passengers. Goodbye. I'll see you tomorrow. – I can't see you tomorrow. I'm playing tennis.*

### ● Future predictions

Ask students to suggest what the world will be like in 25 years' time, using *will* / *won't*.

Examples:

*I think people will live longer. There will be a cure for cancer.*

*People won't send ordinary letters – they'll use e-mail.*

*Europe's climate will be warmer.*

*More students will use computers to study.*

Examples:

A student mimes pumping up a bike tyre, then putting the pump away.

*You're going to ride your bike.*

A student mimes looking through, for example, a rack of clothes. He/she holds one or two items up against him/herself. Then he/she chooses one and mimes handing it to the assistant.

*You're going to buy that sweater/blouse/jacket, etc.*

### ● Predictions and plans

Ask students to write the following:

1 three simple predictions about the future.

Examples:

*I think I'll pass my exams next month.*

*I'll get home at about 6.00 tonight.*

2 three sentences about their plans/intentions for the future.

Examples:

*I'm going to work this weekend.*

*I'm not going to get married.*

Then students work in pairs and tell each other about their predictions and their intentions.

### ● A telephone call

Students work in pairs and compose a short telephone conversation, using the present continuous and *will*. They're phoning a friend.

Example:

A: *Hello, can I speak to Carole?*

B: *I'm afraid she isn't here.*

A: *When will she be back?*

B: *I think she'll be back about 3.00.*

A: *OK. I'll phone again at about 3.30.*

B: *She won't be free at 3.30. She's having a guitar lesson.*

A: *OK. I'll phone this evening.*

B: *OK. I'll tell her you phoned.*

### ● What's going to happen?

Ask students to think of a sentence demonstrating the use of *going to* for imminent future events suggested by present evidence.

Then ask individual students to stand in front of the class and mime the actions that suggest what *he's/she's going to do*.

The rest of the class guess what's going to happen.

### Answers to PRACTICE EXERCISES 6:

1 1e 2e 3a 4a 5d 6e 7b 8b + c    2 1 *will ('ll) be* 2 *am ('m) going to have* 3 *are coming* 4 *will ('ll) wear* 5 *isn't going to rain*  
 3 1 *I'm not working* 2 *I'm going to buy* 3 *She's working* 4 *I'll phone* 5 *We'll be*    4 1 *are you leaving* 2 *I'm getting* 3 *will you be*  
 4 *I'll come* 5 *I'm going to cry*

## Future: *going to* OR *will* OR present continuous?

*My friend is going to live in Italy. That boat is going to sink – there are too many passengers. Goodbye. I'll see you tomorrow. – I can't see you tomorrow. I'm playing tennis.*

### 1 Match the sentences with the explanations.

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1 – Hi, Dan! What <i>are you doing</i> at the weekend?                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> e |
| 2 – <i>I'm staying</i> at home on Saturday.                                | <input type="checkbox"/>              |
| 3 – What <i>are you going to do</i> ?                                      | <input type="checkbox"/>              |
| 4 – <i>I'm going to revise</i> for my exams.                               | <input type="checkbox"/>              |
| 5 – <i>Will you be</i> free on Saturday evening?                           | <input type="checkbox"/>              |
| 6 – Yes, <i>I'm not doing</i> anything in the evening.                     | <input type="checkbox"/>              |
| 7 – Good. We can watch the match on TV. <i>I'll come</i> at 7.30.          | <input type="checkbox"/>              |
| 8 – OK. <i>I'll see</i> you on Saturday.                                   | <input type="checkbox"/>              |
| I must go now. The cat's on the table. <i>It's going to eat</i> my dinner! | <input type="checkbox"/>              |

- a An intention, a plan made before the moment of speaking.  
 b An intention, a decision that we make now, at the moment of speaking.  
 c A future event or action that seems certain because of something we can see now.  
 d A simple future fact.  
 e An arrangement made for a particular time in the future.

### 2 What do you say? Use the present continuous or *will* or *going to*.

- 1 You're 16. It's your birthday next Friday.  
 I (be) ..... *will ('ll) be* ..... 17 next Friday.
- 2 To celebrate your birthday, your parents wanted to take you to a restaurant, but yesterday you decided to have a big party.  
 I don't want to go to a restaurant. I (have) ..... a big party.
- 3 You've invited twenty people. They've all accepted the invitation. You're telling your parents about the arrangement.  
 Twenty people (come) ..... to my party.
- 4 You aren't sure what to wear on Friday. Decide!  
 I know! I (wear) ..... my white trousers.
- 5 You want to have the party outside. You're watching the TV weather forecast.  
 Great! It (not rain) ..... on Friday.

### 3 Which sentence follows the first sentence? Underline the correct verb form.

- 1 I'm free tomorrow. (*I'm not working* / *I won't work*.)  
 2 I've decided to go into town. (*I'll buy* / *I'm going to buy* some new clothes.)  
 3 My sister can't come with me. (*She works* / *She's working* tomorrow morning.)  
 4 Who can I ask to go with me? I know! (*I'm going to phone* / *I'll phone* Kate.)  
 5 We can get the 8.30 bus. (*We'll be* / *We're going to be* in town at 9.00.)

### 4 This is a dialogue in a romantic film.

Complete the dialogue, using the present continuous (x 2), *will* (x 2) and *going to* (x 1).

- When (1 you leave) ..... *are you leaving* ..... ?  
 – Tomorrow. (2 I get) ..... the 8.00 train.  
 – When (3 you be) ..... back?  
 – In a year, two years – I don't know, but I promise (4 I come) ..... back.  
 – Two years! Oh, Ralph, I'm so unhappy. (5 I cry) .....

