

What does the future hold for all of us?

- *It may hold that I'll become a billionaire!*
- *Whatever it holds, I'm not going to school tomorrow!*

I am going to do something = I have already decided to do it, I intend to do it:

- A: Are you going to watch the late film on TV tonight?
B: No, I'm going to have an early night.
- A: I hear Sarah has won some money. What is she going to do with it?
B: She's going to buy a new car.
- I'm just going to make a quick phone call. Can you wait for me?
- This cheese looks horrible. I'm not going to eat it.

I am doing and I am going to do

We use **I am doing** (*present continuous*) when we say what we have *arranged* to do – for example, arranged to meet somebody, arranged to go somewhere:

- What time are you meeting Ann this evening?
- I'm leaving tomorrow. I've got my plane ticket.

I am going to do something = I've decided to do it (but perhaps not *arranged* to do it):

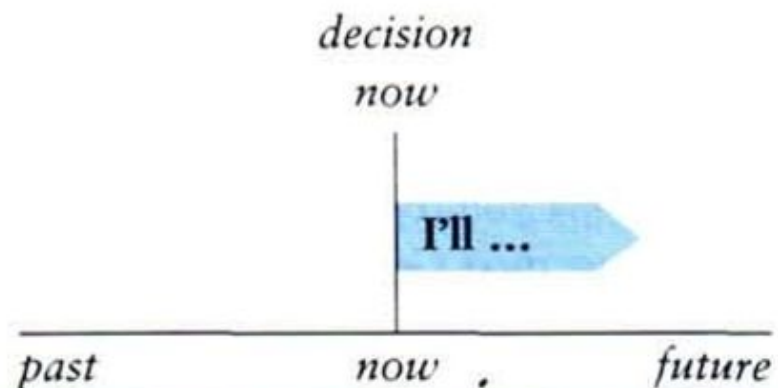
- 'Your shoes are dirty.' 'Yes, I know. I'm going to clean them.' (= I've decided to clean them, but I haven't *arranged* to clean them)

Study the difference between **will** and **(be) going to**:

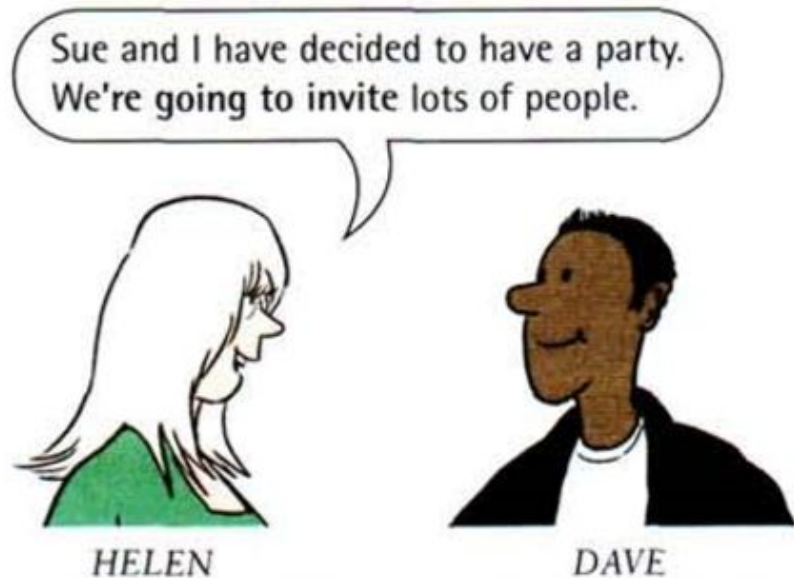
Sue is talking to Helen:



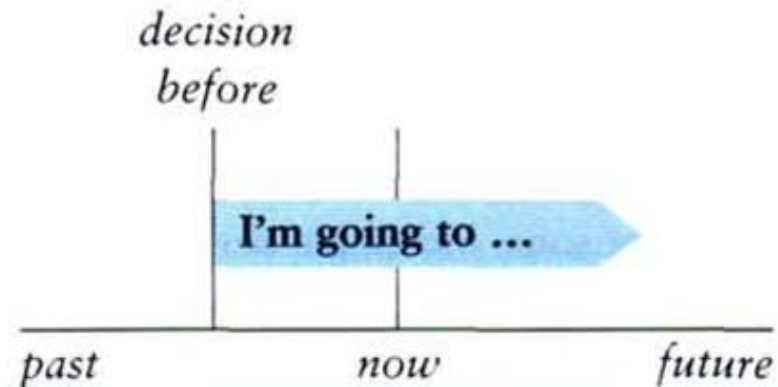
will ('ll): We use **will** when we decide to do something at the time of speaking. The speaker has not decided before. The party is a new idea.



Later that day, Helen meets Dave:



(be) going to: We use **(be) going to** when we have *already decided* to do something. Helen had already decided to invite lots of people *before* she spoke to Dave.



Study this example situation:

These people are standing in a queue to get into the cinema.



now

Half an hour from now, the cinema will be full.
Everyone will be watching the film.



half an hour from now

Three hours from now, the cinema will be empty.
The film will have finished.
Everybody will have gone home.



three hours from now

- We often use verbs like **would like, plan, want, mean, hope, expect** to talk about the future:

1. What are you going to do next year? I'd like to go to University.
2. We plan to go to France for our holidays.
3. George wants to buy a new car.

- We use modals **may, might, and could** when we are not sure about the future:

1. I might stay at home tonight, or I might go to the cinema.
2. We could see Mary at the meeting. She sometimes goes.

- We can use **should** if we think something is likely to happen:

1. We should be home in time for tea.
2. The game should be over by eight o'clock.

- Clauses with time words:

*In clauses with time words like **when, after, and until** we often use a present tense form to talk about the future:*

1. I'll come home when I finish work.
2. You must wait here until your father comes.
3. They are coming after they have had dinner.

- Clauses with **if**:

*In clauses with **if** we often use a present tense form to talk about the future:*

1. We won't be able to go out if it rains.
2. If Barcelona win tomorrow they will be champions.

WARNING: We do not normally use will in clauses with if or with time words:

Put the verb into the correct form, will be (do)ing or will have (done).

- 1 Don't phone between 7 and 8. We'll be having (we / have) dinner then.
- 2 Phone me after 8 o'clock. (we / finish) dinner by then.
- 3 Tomorrow afternoon we're going to play tennis from 3 o'clock until 4.30. So at 4 o'clock,
..... (we / play) tennis.
- 4 A: Can we meet tomorrow?
B: Yes, but not in the afternoon. (I / work).
- 5 *B has to go to a meeting which begins at 10 o'clock. It will last about an hour.*
A: Will you be free at 11.30?
B: Yes, (the meeting / end) by then.

Complete the sentences using will ('ll) or going to.

1 A: Why are you turning on the television?

B: I'm going to watch the news. (I / watch)

2 A: Oh, I've just realised. I haven't got any money.

B: Haven't you? Well, don't worry. you some. (I / lend)

3 A: I've got a headache.

B: Have you? Wait a second and an aspirin for you. (I / get)

4 A: Why are you filling that bucket with water?

B: the car. (I / wash)

5 A: I've decided to repaint this room.

B: Oh, have you? What colour it? (you / paint)