



Lesson 16

The Use of *I will* and *I'm going to* Simple Future Tense

I. RULES AND EXAMPLES

1. We use **will** ('ll) and **(be) going to** in future actions.

Will ('ll): We use **will** when we decide to do something at the time of speaking.

Example: A conversation between Sue and Helen.

Sue : Let's have a party.

Helen: That's a great idea! **We'll invite** lots of people.

Note that Helen used **will** (**we'll**) because she has not decided to invite lots of people before she and Helen talked. The **party** is a new idea.

Now let's see, later that day, Helen meets Dave:

Helen: Hi Dave! Sue and I have decided to have a party. **We're going** to invite lots of people.

Dave : Wow, I think that will be great!

(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.

More Examples: Try to compare the following sentences:

1. 'Gary phoned while you were out.' 'OK, **I'll call** him back.'
'Gary phoned while you were out.' 'Yes, I know. I'm going to call him back.'
2. 'Ann is in hospital.' 'Oh, really? I didn't know. I'll go and visit her.'
'Ann is in hospital.' 'Yes, I know. I'm going to visit her this evening.'

2. Future happenings and situations (predicting the future).

Sometimes there is not much difference between **will** and **going to**.

You can say,

I think that the weather **will** be nice this afternoon. Or,
I think that the weather **is going to** be nice this afternoon.

When we say something **is going to** happen, we think this is because of the situation **now**.

Examples:

1. Look at those black clouds. It's **going to rain**. (*not* it will rain)
(We can see that it **is going to rain** from the clouds that are in the sky *now*)
2. I feel terrible. I think I'm **going to be** sick. (*not* I think I'll be sick)
(I think I'm **going to be** sick because I feel terrible *now*.)
Important: Do not use **will** in this type of situation.

In other situations, use **will**:

1. Tom **will** probably **get** here at about 8 o'clock.
2. I think Sarah **will like** the present we bought for her.
3. These shoes are very well-made. They'**ll last** a long time.

II. EXERCISES

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

Example: A: Why are you turning on the television?

B: _____ the news. (I / watch)

Answer : B: I'm going to watch the news.

Start here:

1. A: Oh, I've just realized. I haven't got any money.

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

2. A: I've got a headache.

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

3. A: Why are you filling that bucket with water?

B: _____ the car. (I / wash)

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

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

5. A: Where are you going? Are you going shopping?

B: Yes, _____ something for dinner. (I / buy)

6. A: I don't know how to use this camera.

B: It's easy. _____ you. (I / show)

7. A: What would you like to eat?

B: _____ a sandwich, please. (I / have)

8. A: Did you post that letter for me?

B: Oh, I'm sorry. I completely forgot. _____ it now. (I / do)

9. A: The ceiling in this room doesn't look very safe, does it?

B: No, it looks as if _____ down. (it / fall)

10. A: Has George decided what to do when he leaves school?

B: Yes. Everything is planned. _____ a holiday for a few weekends. (he / have) Then _____ a computer programming course. (he / do)

Which is right?

Example: I phone / I'll phone you tomorrow, OK?

Answer : I'll phone you tomorrow, OK?

Start here:

1. I haven't done the shopping yet. I do / I'll do it later.
2. I like sport. I watch / I'll watch a lot of sport on TV.
3. I need some exercise. I think I go / I'll go for a walk.
4. Jim is going to buy / will buy a new car. He told me last week.
5. 'This letter is for Rose.' OK, I give / I'll give / I'm going to give it to her.
6. A: Are you doing / Will you do anything this evening?
B: Yes, I'm going / I'll go out with some friends.

III. WRITING

Make a to-do list (a list of what you're going to do) for tomorrow. Use will ('ll) and (be) going to in your sentences. Write at least ten sentences.

IV. FREE TALKING

Let's talk about food!

What kinds of foods do you eat every day? Do you usually eat fruits and vegetables? What kinds? How often do you drink milk or water? What kinds of food do you like to cook? Where do you usually buy your food? Is the food you eat the best for your health? Why or why not? What kinds of food should we avoid? Why?