

I will and I'm going to

A

Future actions

Study the difference between will and going to:

Sue is talking to Erica:

Let's have a party.



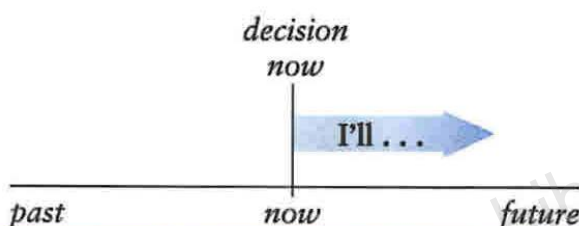
SUE

That's a great idea.
We'll invite some
people from work.



ERICA

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, Erica meets Dave:

Sue and I have decided to have
a party. We're going to invite some
people from work.

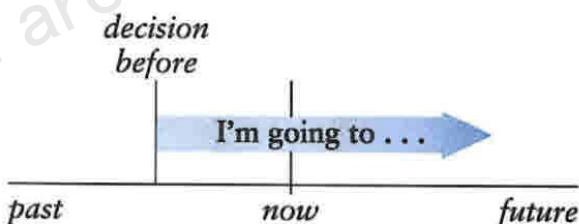


ERICA



DAVE

going to: We use (be) going to when we have already decided to do something. Erica had already decided to invite some people from work before she spoke to Dave.



Compare:

- "Daniel called while you were out." "OK. I'll call him back."
- but "Daniel called while you were out." "Yes, I know. I'm going to call him back."
- "Anna is in the hospital." "Oh, really? I didn't know. I'll go and visit her tonight."
- but "Anna is in the hospital." "Yes, I know. I'm going to visit her tonight."

B

Future happenings and situations (predicting the future)

Sometimes there is not much difference between will and going to. For example, you can say:

- I think the weather will be nice later.
- I think the weather is going to be nice later.

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

- Look at those black clouds. It's going to rain. (*not* It will rain – We can see the clouds now.)
- I feel terrible. I think I'm going to be sick. (*not* I think I'll be sick – I feel terrible now.)

Do not use will in situations like these. (See also Unit 19C.)

In other situations, will is more usual:

- Tom will probably arrive at about 8:00.
- I think Jessica will like the present we bought for her.

Exercises

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

- A: Why are you turning on the television?
B: *I'm going to watch* the news. (I / watch)
- A: Oh, I just realized that I don't have any money.
B: You don't? Well, don't worry. _____ you some. (I / lend)
- A: I have a headache.
B: You do? Wait a second and _____ an aspirin for you. (I / get)
- A: Why are you filling that bucket with water?
B: _____ the car. (I / wash)
- A: I've decided to paint this room.
B: Oh, really? What color _____ it? (you / paint)
- A: Where are you going? Are you going shopping?
B: Yes, _____ something for dinner. (I / buy)
- A: I don't know how to use this camera.
B: It's easy. _____ you. (I / show)
- A: Did you mail that letter for me?
B: Oh, I'm sorry. I completely forgot. _____ it now. (I / do)
- A: Has Dan decided what to do when he finishes high school?
B: Oh, yes. Everything is planned. _____ a few months off (he / take) and then _____ classes at the community college. (he / start)

22.2 Read the situations and complete the sentences using *will ('ll)* or *going to*.

- The phone rings and you answer. Somebody wants to speak to Jim.
Caller: Hello. May I speak to Jim, please?
You: Just a moment. *I'll get* _____ him. (I / get)
- It's a nice day. You've decided to take a walk. Before going outside, you tell your friend.
You: The weather's too nice to stay indoors. _____ a walk. (I / take)
Friend: That's a good idea. I think _____ you. (I / join)
- Your friend is worried because she has lost an important letter.
You: Don't worry about the letter. I'm sure _____ it. (you / find)
Friend: I hope so.
- There was a job advertised in the newspaper recently. At first you were interested, but then you decided not to apply.
Friend: Have you decided what to do about that job that was advertised?
You: Yes, _____ for it. (I / not / apply)
- You and a friend come home very late. Other people in the house are asleep. Your friend is noisy.
You: Shh! Don't make so much noise. _____ everybody up. (you / wake)
- John has to go to the airport to catch a plane tomorrow morning.
John: Ann, I need a ride to the airport tomorrow morning.
Ann: That's no problem. _____ you. (I / take) What time is your flight?
John: 10:50.
Ann: OK, then _____ at about 8:00. (we / leave)
Later that day, Joe offers to take John to the airport.
Joe: John, do you want me to take you to the airport?
John: No thanks, Joe. _____ me. (Ann / take)