

Unit 10

Going to *and* will

Getting started

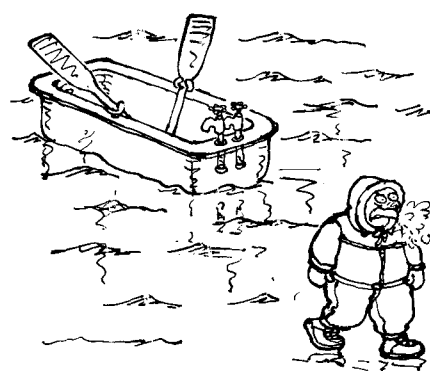
1 Read Stories 1 and 2 about unusual sea crossings and answer the questions.

a) Which types of boat are mentioned?

.....
.....

b) Which type was unsuccessful?

.....



Story 1

In the late 1960s, Kenneth Blyton successfully crossed the English Channel in a metal bottle with a small motor. It was his third crossing, but his first time by bottle. When he landed in France, he described his next plan. 'I have already crossed by bed and by barrel,' he said. 'Next year I'm going to cross by giant banana.'

Story 2

A man from Kentucky tried to row across the icy Bering Strait, between Alaska and Russia, in a bath. Unfortunately, things went a bit wrong for him. According to the explorer, 'By late afternoon on the fourth day, although the sun was still high, the sea went rather thick. Next morning I was frozen in.'

No problem. He left the bath in the ice and walked to land, where he told reporters, 'I'll try again in the summer.'

2 Look at these sentences from Stories 1 and 2 and answer the questions.

i) *Next year I'm going to cross by giant banana.*

ii) *I'll try again in the summer.*

a) Which sentence suggests that the man decided something **before** speaking?

b) Which suggests he decided at **the same time** as speaking?

Looking at language

Going to and will

Use

Be going to and *will* can be used to talk about the future. Sometimes the difference between them is small, but note these points:

We usually choose *be going to* when:

1 we've already made a decision:

Next year I'm going to cross by giant banana.

I'm going to study Arabic next term. (I've already decided)

2 the present situation tells us something about the future:

She's going to win. (she's only got to win one more point)

We usually choose *will* when:

3 we haven't decided about the future yet, or we make a prediction. We often use words such as *think, probably, sure, suppose, definitely, doubt*:

We think we'll buy them some glasses as a wedding present. (haven't decided yet)

I'll probably go home in a few minutes. (haven't decided yet)

She'll definitely feel homesick in the States. (prediction)

The shops will be really busy tomorrow. (prediction)

I doubt that you'll see him tonight. (prediction)

4 we decide at the time of speaking to do something (this can be an offer or promise or a response to an offer):

A: *Have you bought Sally a birthday present?* B: *No! I'll buy her some flowers at lunchtime.*
(decision at the time of speaking)

A: *Oh, I've forgotten to turn off the iron!* B: *Don't worry. I'll do it.* (an offer)

I'm sorry. I'm busy, but I promise I'll help you later.

(See Units 39 and 40 for *shall* in offers and suggestions.)

The choice of *be going to* or *will* depends on the speaker's emphasis. Compare:

What's he going to do when he gets here? (I think he's thought about it)

What will he do when he gets here? (I don't think he's decided)

1 Are these sentences right or wrong? Write *right* or *wrong* and correct the wrong sentences.

1 A: So, have you thought about your holiday yet? B: Yeah, we'll go to Austria.

.....

2 A: Oh dear. I've left my keys in the car. B: Don't worry. I'll go back and get them.

.....

3 A: Would you like me to help you? B: Oh, no thanks. I'm going to be OK.

.....

4 A: Have you heard from Miyoko? B: Yes, she'll have a baby in April.

.....

Form

	Will	Be going to
Positive statements	I / you etc. will (I'll / you'll) stay	I am (I'm) / you are (you're) etc. going to stay
Negative statements	I will not (won't) stay	I am (I'm) not going to stay
Questions	Will you stay? Where will you stay?	Are you going to stay? Where are you going to stay?
Short answers	Yes, I will . No, I won't .	Yes, I am . No, I'm not .

Pronunciation and spelling

- In informal and spoken English *will* is contracted: *I'll* (/aɪl/), *you'll* (/ju:l/), *we'll* (/wi:l/), *she'll* (/ʃi:l/), *he'll* (/hi:l/), *it'll* (/ɪtəl/), *they'll* (/ðeɪəl/) *be here in a minute*.
- We often pronounce *be going to* /gənə/, and spell it *gonna* in very informal English:
I'm gonna see her tonight.

Other points

- *Shall* (*shan't*) can be used in place of *will* (*won't*) for Use 4 to emphasise our decision. It is usually only used with *I* and *we*:
I shall phone the doctor immediately.
- *Won't* can be used to talk about annoying problems:
The coffee machine won't turn off.
- Future-in-the-past: *was / were going to* can be used if you planned something but didn't do it:
I was going to make something to eat, but in the end I went out.

Getting it right

► Exercise 1 Thinking about use

In this conversation about a wedding, match each example of *be going to* or *will* to Uses 1–4 in *Looking at language*. You can use each rule more than once.

- A: What *are you going to wear* to the wedding? 1..
- B: I don't know. I thought about wearing my suit, but 1 *I'll have to buy* new shoes if I do that. What about you? 1
- A: I have no idea. I don't know what 2 *I'm going to do*. I suppose 3 *I'll buy* something new, but I don't know what. Have you bought them a present yet? 2
- B: No, but I know what 4 *I'm going to get* them. 3
- A: Oh, what? 4
- B: A painting of their village. A friend of mine is painting it.

- A: That sounds great. I'm sure 5 *they'll love it.* 5
- B: Hope so. Have you got anything yet?
- A: No, I haven't. Judy loves cooking, so I've ordered a new cookbook for them.
I just haven't had time to pick it up.
- B: Oh, 6 *I'll get it for you if you like* – I'm going into town now. Which shop is it? 6
- A: That's really sweet of you, but it's OK, thanks. I need to go into town and look for something to wear, so 7 *I'll do it then.* 7
- B: Well, why don't you come into town with me now? 8 *I'm going to do a bit of shopping.* 8
- A: OK. 9 *I'll just get my purse, and we'd better take umbrellas.* I think 9
- 10 *it's going to rain, don't you?* 10

▷ Exercise 2 Learning from learners

In this conversation between two learners, underline the best form: *will* or *be going to*.

- A: I get very confused when I think about *be going to* and *will*. Can you help at all?
- B: I'll / *I will* / *I'm going to* try. When you make a decision at the time of speaking you're more likely to use 1 *will / be going to*. 2 *Will / Be going to* is used if you have already made your decision.
- A: OK. Anything else?
- B: Another use of 3 *will / be going to* is for making predictions. 4 *Will / Be going to* is more likely when the present situation tells us about the future, so for example when you go into an expensive restaurant you might say 5 '*It'll / It's going to be expensive*' because you can see the expensive surroundings.
- A: You make it sound easy! 6 I think *I'll / I will / I'm going to* buy a new grammar book. I saw a good one yesterday.
- B: Good idea. Perhaps 7 *I'll / I will / I'm going to* do that too.

▷ Exercise 3 Choosing the right future form

Complete each sentence using the verb or phrase in brackets and *will* or *be going to*. You may need to make some verbs negative.

Example: I've had a cold for ages. It just *won't go*. (*go*) away.

- 1 Perhaps I (*stay*) at home tonight and watch a film.
- 2 I (*ask*) Sally to walk the dog, but then my son offered.
- 3 We (*have*) a barbecue but it started to rain.
- 4 I feel awful. I think I (*be*) sick.
- 5 A: Careful with my camera! B: I (*not break*) it, promise!
- 6 The two men probably (*reach*) the Amazon sometime in early November.
- 7 That new video I bought doesn't work. It (*not record*).
- 8 It's raining, so she probably (*come*) by car.
- 9 Don't try to stop me. I (*go*) and see her.

Exercise 4 Writing about the future

Write sentences, thinking carefully about which forms of *will* or *be going to* you need to use.

Examples: Write something you have already decided about the future.

I'm going to study business next year.

Make a prediction about daily life in the future.

I think people will work from home much more in future.

1 Write something you have already decided about the future.

2 Make a prediction about daily life in the future.

3 Write something your country's government has decided to do in the future.

4 Write about a past change of plan in your life.

5 Write about something you have decided to do in the future.

6 Write about the weather later today or tomorrow.

7 Write a promise about your future behaviour.

8 Write a question about somebody's future intention.

Classwork

Some people believe that dreams can predict the future. In small groups, discuss what you think the following dream images might predict.

Example:

Combing your hair

A: *I think it means you're going to try to change something in your life.*

B: *Good idea, or maybe it means you're going to solve a problem.*

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| a) Going up an escalator | e) A hand |
| b) Going down an escalator | f) A wolf |
| c) Green grass | g) A dove |
| d) A journey | h) A parcel or package |