

future forms: present continuous, *be going to*, *will / won't*

be going to + infinitive

future plans and intentions

My sister's **going to adopt** a child.

Are you going to buy a new car or a second-hand one?

I'm not going to go home for the holidays. It's too far.

predictions

Barcelona **are going to win**. They're playing really well.

Look at those black clouds. I think **it's going to rain**.

- We use *be going to* (**NOT** *will / won't*) when we have already decided to do something. **NOT** ~~My sister will adopt a child.~~
- We also use *be going to* to make a prediction about the future, especially when we have some evidence (e.g. *we can see black clouds*).

present continuous: *be* + verb + *-ing*

future arrangements

Lorna and Jamie **are getting** married in October.

We're meeting at 10.00 tomorrow in Richard's office.

Jane's **leaving** on Friday and **coming back** next Tuesday.

- We often use the present continuous for future arrangements.
- There is very little difference between the present continuous and *be going to* for future plans / arrangements and often you can use either.
 - *be going to* shows that you have made a decision.
We're going to get married next year.
 - the present continuous emphasizes that you have made the arrangements.
We're getting married on October 12th. (= we've booked the church)
- We often use the present continuous with verbs relating to travel arrangements, e.g. *go, come, arrive, leave*, etc.
He's arriving tomorrow and leaving on Thursday.

will / shall + infinitive



instant decisions, promises, offers, predictions, future facts, suggestions

- 1 **I'll have** the steak. (instant decision)
I won't tell anybody where you are. (promise)
I'll carry that bag for you. (offer)
You'll love New York! (prediction)
Next year Christmas Day **will be** on a Thursday. (future fact)

- 2 **Shall I help** you with your homework? (offer)
Shall we eat out tonight? (suggestion)

- 1 We use *will / won't* (**NOT** the present simple) for instant decisions, promises, and offers. **NOT** ~~*I carry that bag for you.*~~

- We can also use *will / won't* for predictions, e.g. *I think Barcelona will win*, and to talk about future facts, e.g. *The election will be on 1st March*.
- 2 We use *shall* (**NOT** *will*) with *I* and *we* for offers and suggestions when they are questions.