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To: Beginners Group
Subj: Lesson 14

2 Ways to Talk About the Future in English



There are many ways we can talk about the future. In this lesson we will work on **will** and **going to**.

1. WILL & BE GOING TO (Future intentions):

'Will' (future simple) is used to express future intentions that have been made at the moment of speaking (spontaneous offers, decisions and promises). For example:

Come on, do not worry, I will help you study for the test (seeing that someone is struggling to understand).

Or the contracted form: *Come on don't worry; I'll help you study for the test.*

Notice the structure: *I (subject) + will + a verb in the base form (or infinitive form)*
In this case the verb is 'help'.

Alternatively, 'be going to' is used to express future intentions that have been arranged before the moment of speaking. For example:

I cannot help you with your homework tonight. I am going to see a movie with my friend. (referring to a plan that the speaker has made in the past).

Or the contracted form:

I can't help you with your homework tonight. I am going to see a movie with a friend.

Here the structure is as follows: *I (subject) + am (verb 'to be') going to + a verb in the base form (or infinitive form)*
In this case the verb is 'see'.



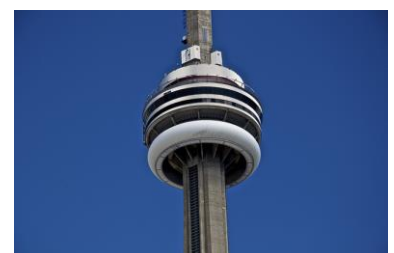
2. WILL & BE GOING TO (Predictions)

'Will' (future simple) is also used for predictions that are based on personal judgement, opinion or intuition. For example:

*I am positive that you **will** have an amazing time in Toronto.* (Opinion)

Or the contracted form: *I'm positive that you'll have an amazing time in Toronto.*

The structure here is the same as in the example of 'will' above.



'Be going to' is used to make predictions which are based on present evidence. The predicted event will happen very soon (and can be seen) or seems sure to happen. For example:

Look at those dark clouds! It is going to rain!

Or the contracted form: It's going to rain!

The structure is the same as 'be going to' mentioned above.

Exercises

The Right Answer

➤ 1. Match the right solution with the problem.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I've lost my wallet 2. I'm freezing 3. I'm sad 4. I've got a headache 5. I'm thirsty 6. My bags are very heavy. 7. I'm hungry 8. I'm very hot. 9. I'm poor. 10. I'm really tired. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) I'll close the window. b) I'll help you find it. c) I'll open a window. d) I'll make you a sandwich. e) I'll lend you some money. f) I'll get you an aspirin. g) I'll get you some coffee. h) I'll get you a drink. i) I'll cheer you up. j) I'll help you. |
|---|---|

➤ 2. Make a timetable of your week.

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			

➤ 3. Write some sentences saying 'I'm going to'

1. On Monday morning I'm going to
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.