



Remember to watch the video first! Then read the conversation between Sophie and Tomas, a student that Sophie met on her travels. Sophie's helping Tomas understand how to use future forms.



**Grammar
Snacks**

We have different ways of talking about the future. We often use *going to* (+ infinitive), the present continuous (*to be* + *-ing*) or *will* (+ infinitive). The structure we use depends on the function of what we want to say, whether we are talking about arrangements, plans, predictions, etc.



Tomas

I thought *will* was the future tense in English.

It's one of the ways of talking about the future, but there are a few others. Let's look at *will* to start with. We use *will* / *won't* (= *will not*) + the infinitive for predictions about the future.

Oliver'll be back soon.
We won't be ready.
Do you think it'll rain this afternoon?

We also use *will* when we decide something at the moment of speaking.

(The doorbell rings) I'll get it.



Sophie

So, you sometimes use the verb *think* before *will*?

Yes, that's very common. We also use: *don't think*, *expect*, *be + sure*.

I'm sure you'll have a good time.



You said *will* is used for decisions made at the moment of speaking. What about decisions made before the moment of speaking?

Then we can use either the present continuous or *going to* (+ infinitive).

Amy's coming round.
We're going to watch a film – want to join us?
What are you doing this evening?





Is there a difference between them?

We use the present continuous more for arrangements with other people and *be + going to + infinitive* for intentions. Sometimes it's important to choose the right structure, but often we could use either because many events are both arrangements and intentions.

*Amy's **coming** round.* (= arrangement between Amy and Daisy)

*Amy's **going to come** round.* (= Amy's intention)

*I'm **going to clean** my room tonight.* (= intention)

~~I'm cleaning my room tonight.~~ (not an arrangement)



So could I say 'I'm going to go to the cinema with Alex'?



Yes, that's correct. But we usually avoid saying *going to go*, just because it doesn't sound very elegant. We normally use the present continuous with *go*.

*I'm **going to** the cinema with Alex.*

And 'I will go to the cinema with Alex'?

No. We don't use *will* for arrangements or intentions if the decision was made before the moment of speaking.

Oh, yes, you told me that before. Anything else?



Yes, there's another use of *going to*. We use it for predictions too, especially when you can see something happening or about to happen.

*Look out! You're **going to spill** that coffee.*



Can you use *going to* for other predictions?

Yes, sometimes both *will* and *going to* can be used.

*I think the Green Party **will win** the election.*

*I think the Green Party **are going to win** the election.*





OK, and one last thing! Is it correct to say, 'When's the race?' That's present simple, isn't it?

Yes. You can use present simple for timetabled events.

*My plane **leaves** at 4pm tomorrow.*

*The match **starts** at 8pm.*



Phew! So sometimes you can use *going to* or the present continuous and sometimes you can use *will* or *going to*. And you can also use present simple for timetabled events. *I'll never understand* the future!



I'm sure you will! You're using it correctly already.

Watch the video on our website!

