

will, going to and present continuous

<i>will</i>
We use <i>will</i> to talk about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • general predictions. <i>By 2100, most people will live to 130.</i> • decisions that are made at the moment of speaking (e.g. an offer to do something). <i>A: Is that the telephone?</i> <i>B: Yes, it is. I'll answer it.</i>
<i>going to</i>
We use <i>going to</i> to talk about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • predictions based on evidence. <i>Look at that car! It's going to crash!</i> • intentions, or plans, where the decision has been made before the moment of speaking. <i>He's going to study English at Oxford.</i>
Present continuous
We use the present continuous to talk about future arrangements. We often give the time and / or place. <i>I'm meeting Anna in town tomorrow.</i>

1 Complete the conversations. Use the correct form of *will* or *going to*.

- 'I've decided to go to university.'
'Really? Which subject you (study)?'
- 'Do you think that computers (control) our lives in the future?'
'No, of course not!'
- 'Why are you wearing a tracksuit?'
'I (play) tennis in the park with David.'
- 'It's very cold in here.'
'Yes, you're right. I (close) the window.'
- 'That woman looks very pale.'
'Yes, I think she (faint).'
- 'Why are you turning on the radio?'
'I (listen) to the news.'
- 'I can't work out this maths problem.'
'I (help) you with it.'

2 Choose the correct tenses.

- In a hundred years time I think people **will live / are living** on the moon.
- Who **are you meeting / will you meet** this evening?
- 'What are you going to wear for the party?'
'I haven't decided yet. Maybe **I'll wear / I'm wearing** my new jeans.'
- Greg passed his driving test last week. He told me **he's going to buy / he'll buy** a car.
- I feel terrible. I think **I'll be / I'm going to be** sick.
- 'Where are you going for your summer holidays?'
'I don't know yet. Perhaps **I'll go / I'm going to go** to Torremolinos.'

3 Choose the correct tenses.

Hi Pablo!

How are you? A lot has happened since I last wrote. The good news is that I've passed all my exams, and ¹ **I'll start / I'm starting** university in September. ² **I'm going to study / I'll study** Spanish and Catalan at Middlesex University in London, so ³ **I'll be able to / I'm being able** to write e-mails in Catalan soon!

I've also got a new boyfriend called Matthew. He's a year older than me and he's really nice. Next week ⁴ **we'll go / we're going** to a Blur concert in Manchester. Matthew queued for six hours for the tickets!

Unfortunately ⁵ **I'm not seeing / I won't see** Matthew very often after I start university. ⁶ **I'll probably find / I'm probably finding** a flat in London, and ⁷ **he'll definitely stay / he's definitely going to stay** in Manchester. But ⁸ **we're seeing / we'll see** each other at weekends. ⁹ **Are you coming / Will you come** and visit me in London? I hope so.

Love,

Clare