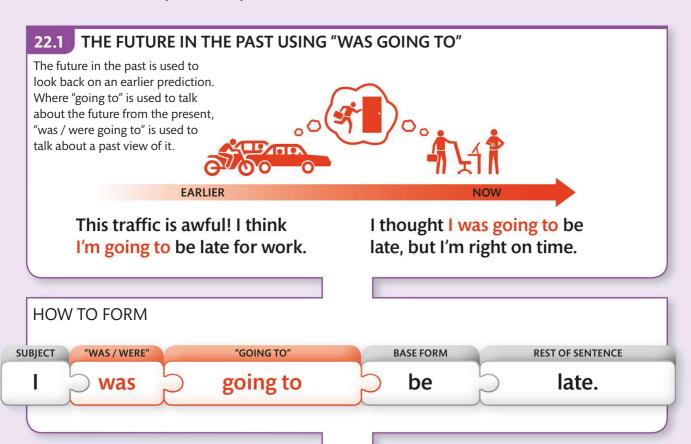
22 The future in the past

There are a number of constructions in English that can be used to describe thoughts about the future that someone had at some point in the past.

See also:

Past continuous **10** Infinitives and participles **51**



FURTHER EXAMPLES

I was going to start a new book today, but I didn't have time.



Delia was going to buy a new dress, but she couldn't find one.



Mike was going to have a party, but nobody could come.



We were going to buy a new dog, but we decided to wait.



They were going to go home, but they went dancing instead.



Sorry, I interrupted. Were you going to say something?



THE FUTURE IN THE PAST USING "WOULD" 22.2

Where "will" is used to talk about a future event from the present, "would" is used to talk about a past view of it.

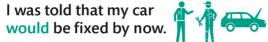


EARLIER

I think I will finish the gardening today. It shouldn't take too long. I thought I would finish today, but there is still a lot left to do.

FURTHER EXAMPLES

I always knew she would be successful.





Did you ever think you would become a doctor?



I don't know where Hilda is. I thought she'd be here by 8pm.



THE FUTURE IN THE PAST USING THE PAST CONTINUOUS

The past continuous is used to talk about an arranged future event from a time in the past.











Jenny was extremely nervous on Monday morning. She was taking her driving test that afternoon.

FURTHER EXAMPLES

They were planning to go to the beach tomorrow, but the weather's terrible.



Michelle had been cleaning all day. Her sister was arriving that evening.



Hugo had to go to bed early because he was flying early the following morning.