

17 The future with "going to"

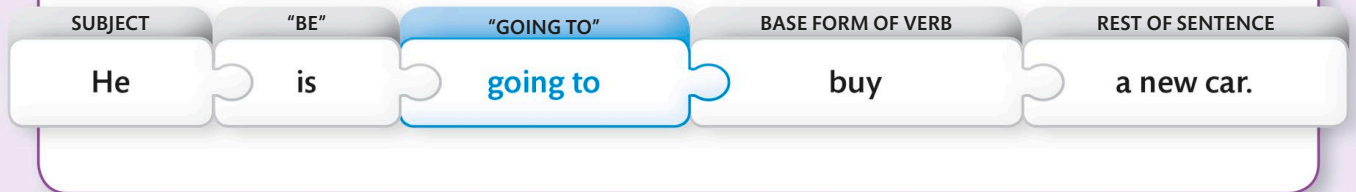
Future forms in English are formed using auxiliary verbs. One of the most commonly used constructions is "going to" plus the base form of the main verb.

See also:

The future with "will" **18**

Future continuous **20** Future in the past **22**

17.1 HOW TO FORM THE FUTURE WITH "GOING TO"



17.2 "GOING TO" FOR FUTURE PLANS

"Going to" is used to talk about future events that have been planned in advance, rather than decided upon at the time of speaking.

I'm **going to** buy a new car.

Base form of verb.



We are **going to** cook dinner tonight.



"Be" matches the subject of the sentence.

"Going to" doesn't change with the subject.

FURTHER EXAMPLES

I'm **going to** start reading this book soon.



Sam's **going to** get fit before his next birthday.



I'm **not going to** eat any chocolate this month.

"Not" is added after the verb "be" to make the negative.



We're **going to** cycle from Boston to Cape Cod next weekend.



17.3 "GOING TO" FOR PREDICTIONS

"Going to" is also used to make predictions when there is evidence in the present moment.

"Going to" gives the prediction.

Look at those clouds. It's **going to** rain soon.

Evidence in the present moment means that you can make a prediction.



FURTHER EXAMPLES

Oh no! She's **going to** slip and fall over.



Look! The waiter is **going to** drop those plates.



That hill is too steep. Jon is **going to** crash!



He's wearing a raincoat, so he's **not going to** get wet.



They're **going to** break a window if they're not careful.



Oh dear, I think she's **going to** fall off that ladder!



17.4 QUESTIONS WITH "GOING TO"

Questions with "going to" are formed by swapping the subject and "be."

Michelle is going to be at the meeting.



Is Michelle going to be at the meeting?

FURTHER EXAMPLES

Is Rhian going to come to work tomorrow?



Question words can be added to the start of the question.

What are you going to wear to the party?



Is Tim going to be at the party?



When is he going to get here?

