



Unit 7 – Simple Future: Will & Be Going To (I'll do it.. I'm going to do it..)

A) Both will & be going to are used to express the future simple tense. Although there are certain guidelines for using each (explained below), both can generally be used to express something either i) planned or ii) predicted.

- We'll have dinner together later on today. Care to join us? -> or: 'We are going to have..'
- What will you do when you get to the amusement park? -> or: 'What are you going to do..'
- Mr. Johnson won't be able to meet us at 2pm as planned. -> or: 'Mr. Johnson isn't going to be able..'

Note: -> both will & be going to have the same basic meaning, although **'will'** carries a more formal tone

B) Facts & Predictions – note the differences:

WILL	BE GOING TO
A prediction based on personal opinions or experience:	A prediction based on present evidence:
○ Barcelona will win the game over Real Madrid.	○ Amy's putting on her coat. She's going to leave.
○ Who do you think will win the election?	○ She told me she's going to spend the year abroad.
A future fact:	To express an action or event we think is about to happen:
○ The president will speak at 5pm today.	○ Hurry up! We're going to miss the bus.
○ The clocks will go back an hour this weekend.	○ Be careful! That dog is going to bite you!

C) Speculating – when offering predictions, it is common to speculate about the likelihood of these predictions actually occurring. Note the most common language used: **I think/bet/expect/hope/imagine/wonder** or **I'm sure..**

- **I think** you will see a lot of positive changes at school this upcoming semester.
- **Do you expect** there will be much more work to do when we arrive?
- **Dave:** Where's Steve? He should be here by now. **Ron:** **I'm sure** he'll arrive soon.

Note: -> 'going to' can also be used here to convey a more conversational tone

D) Deciding in the Moment vs Fixed Plans – **will** is used for decisions made to do something at the moment of speaking (our *willingness* to do something) while **going to** is used for decisions about the future that have already been made (prior plans or intentions). Note the differences in the following examples:

- Okay, then **I'll** arrive at 8pm to meet you. (*making plans; an offer*) vs:
- **I'm going to** arrive at 8pm to meet Molly. (*prior planning*)
- Someone is knocking at the door. **I'll** open it. (*willingness to do something in the moment*) vs:
- When Ms. Lee arrives, **I'm going to** open the door. (*an intention to do something*)

Note: -> when referring to future plans or events formally, **will** is often used to indicate a more professional tone:

- **Will** you deliver your presentation at the Annual General Meeting? We **will** be attending.
- The AGM **will** begin at 10am and conclude at 4pm. Lunch **will** be provided at noon.

E) Future Clauses – Present tense clauses with **when, after, until**, etc. can be used to refer to the future:

- I'll come home **when** I finish class. or: **When** I finish class, I'll come home.
- Please stay here **until** I come back. or: **Until** I come back, please stay here.
- Jonathan will arrive **after** dinner. or: **After** dinner, Jonathan will arrive.

F) The 'if' Clause – when indicating that something is conditional upon something else (often something negative), the dependent clause includes **'if'** to express the condition. For example:

- **If** you keep driving too fast, you'll have an accident. -> dependent clause = 'If you keep driving..'
- Sherry is going to wave **if** she sees us coming. -> independent clause = 'Sherry is going to wave..'

-> Conditional clauses with **unless, even if, in case**, etc. are also used to refer to the future:

- I'll meet you **unless** I have to work late. or: **Unless** I have to work late, I'll meet you.
- We'll still go out **even if** she can't come. or: **Even if** she can't come, we'll still go out.



Unit 7 – Exercises:

7.1 – Complete the sentences with **will** or **be going to** using the verbs in brackets. Use contractions whenever possible. Be sure to explain your reasoning on the line below. **(7-A/B/D)**

- Next year, we're **going to go** to New Orleans for Mardi Gras. (go)
-> 'Be going to' is used for prior plans.
- A: Do you have any plans for summer break? B: Yes, we _____ a trip to Switzerland. (take)
-> _____.
- A: Dana was going to take me to the airport but cannot anymore. B: That's okay! I _____ you. (drive)
-> _____.
- A: Watch out! That lamp _____ if you're not more careful. (fall over)
-> _____.
- A: We _____ the new Batman movie tonight. Do you want to come with us? (see)
-> _____.
- A: Let's meet early for our hike tomorrow. The sun _____ at about 6am. (rise)
-> _____.
- A: Who do you like in the game tonight? B: Oh, the Lions _____! They've been playing well. (win)
-> _____.

7.2 – Complete the sentences with the following **speculative words**: sure / wonder / expect / hope / think **(7-C)**

- Tammy is usually very punctual. I'm _____ she'll be here soon.
- The Bulls are playing in the championship game tonight. I sure _____ they'll win!
- It's going to rain all day today. I _____ they're going to cancel the baseball game.
- That's a unique-looking building. I _____ if that's the new museum everyone is talking about?
- A: Did you see the new construction project downtown? B: Yes, I _____ it'll be an office building.

7.3 – Combine the ideas of the two sentences into one sentence using the **time clauses** in brackets. **(7-E)**

- First: Dad's going to do the dishes. Then: He's going to dry them and put them away. (*as soon as*)
As soon as Dad does the dishes, he's going to dry them and put them away. *or*:
Dad's going to dry the dishes and put them away as soon as he does them.
- First: I'll arrive at the bus station. Then: I'll call you to pick me up. (*as soon as*)
_____.
- First: I'll text Ashley tomorrow morning. Then: I'll ask her if she's joining us for lunch. (*when*)
_____.
- First: Colin is going to go to Biology class. Then: He's going to go to the library. (*after*)
_____.
- First: Tim's going to finish his homework. Then: He's going to call his parents on Facetime. (*before*)
_____.
- First: Mary will pass her driver's test. Then: She's not going to stop practicing. (*until*)
_____.
- First: Jennifer is going to study English. Then: She's going to become a great speaker. (*until*)
_____.

7.4 – Complete the sentences using your own ideas with the **conditional clauses** provided. **(7-F)**

- I'll go out tonight **only if** _____.
- Even if** it rains tomorrow, _____.
- Unless** I'm busy this weekend, _____.