



- A: Ah! So you have two kids now. I didn't know! How old's your youngest?
- B: She's two. She'll be three on Sunday. We're going to have a party. There'll be fun and games for the kids, and food and drinks for the adults.
- A: Where are you having it?
- B: At the café in the park. There's plenty of room for the kids to run around, and we're going to get a clown to come and do a little show.
- A: Sounds like it'll be great fun!
- B: Would you like to come? The show starts at five.
- A: Er, no thanks. Maybe I'll join you for ten minutes to say hello. I'm not really that good with kids!

Presentation

Present simple

Use the present simple for scheduled events in the future:

The show starts at five.

Present continuous and *going to*

You can use both the present continuous and *going to* to talk about plans and arrangements in the future. They can often be used with the same meaning:

We're going to have a party.

Where are you having it?

We're having it in the park.

Use the present continuous (and not *going to*) when a formal arrangement has been made:

I'm having a party tomorrow.

We're flying to Barcelona tomorrow. We booked the tickets last week.

Use *going to* (and not present continuous) to talk about personal intentions when there is no clear time reference or expression:

I'm going to study hard for my exams. (= I intend to study hard in the future.)

I'm studying hard for my exams. (= I'm studying hard NOW.)

TIP You normally use the verbs *go* and *come* in the present continuous, not with *going to*.

Say *Are you going to the party?* (don't say *Are you going to go to the party?*)

going to and *will*

You can use both *going to* and *will*:

- to talk about future facts and inevitable events:
She'll be / She's going to be three next week.
- to make predictions about the future: *It'll be great fun. / It's going to be great fun.*

Use *going to* when you make a prediction based on information in the present situation:

Look at those clouds! Get in the car, it's going to rain!

You often use *will* with verbs like *think*, *expect*, *imagine*:

I think it'll be OK. I expect he'll be here on time.

I imagine he'll call later today.

To talk about decisions, *I'm going to ...* and *I'll ...* are both used.

Use *going to* to talk about a decision that has been made before the moment of speaking:

I'm going to get a bus.

Use *will* to talk about a decision that is made at the moment of speaking:

Oh no! It's really late. I'll call a taxi!

1 Match 1–8 with A–H.

- 1 There's been a change of plan. H
- 2 We'll need to leave here at about 7:30.
- 3 I didn't do very well in my exams.
- 4 You'd better bring some sunscreen.
- 5 I forgot that it's Amy's birthday today!
- 6 Oh no! Look at the traffic.
- 7 Today is the last day of the semester.
- 8 Sorry, I can't come to the movies tomorrow evening.

- A We're going to be late!
- B The doors open at 8 o'clock.
- C I'm babysitting for my neighbor.
- D But I'm going to study much harder this year.
- E It's going to be really hot today.
- F All classes will finish at 1 p.m.
- G I'll give her a call.
- H We're meeting at 12 instead of 1:30.

2 Choose the best options.

- A: ¹*We're going* / *We'll go* to the theater on Saturday.
 B: What ²*are you going to* / *will you see*?
 A: It's a Cuban dance group. They're great. Do you want to come, too?
 B: What time does the show start?
 A: At 9:30. ³*We're going to meet up* / *We will meet up* for something to eat at the Thai Dragon beforehand. ⁴*There's* / *There'll be* me, Rob, Teresa, and Stefano. ⁵*It's being* / *It'll be* fun.
 B: I'd love to come, too. Do you have the tickets yet?
 A: No, I think ⁶*I buy* / *I'm going to buy* them online later today. Do you want me to get one for you?

- B: Could you get two? Jane ⁷*is staying* / *will stay* with me this weekend.
 A: Sure, ⁸*I'm doing* / *I'll do* that this morning – as soon as I've finished my breakfast!
 B: Thanks a lot!
 Let me know how much it is and ⁹*I'm paying* / *I'll pay* you on Saturday.
 A: OK. Speak soon!



3 Rewrite the sentences with a similar meaning using the words in bold.

- 1 What are your plans for tomorrow?
doing What are you doing tomorrow?
- 2 Who do you think will win the competition?
think/going
- 3 Don't worry, it isn't going to rain tomorrow.
will
- 4 I've arranged to take the day off tomorrow.
taking
- 5 The flight will leave Naples at 6:30 and arrive in London at 8:25.
leaves
- 6 Do you intend to sell your bike at the end of the summer?
going
- 7 It's going to be really difficult to get there by nine.
will
- 8 The exam will start at 9:00 and the doors to the exam room will close at 8:50.
starts