



- A: Hello! I didn't know you've got two children. How old is your youngest child?
 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 drink for the adults.
 A: Where are you having it?
 B: At the café in the park. There's lots of space, so we're going to have some music and dancing as well.
 A: That sounds like it'll be great fun!
 B: Would you like to come? The party starts at five.
 A: Thanks but I'm going to New York that day for work. Anyway, I hope you all have fun.
 B: Thanks. We will. And give me a call when you get back from New York.
 A: Yes, I will!

Presentation

Use different forms to talk about the future.

Present continuous

Use the present continuous to talk about a fixed arrangement to do something at a specified time in the future. It often involves other people.

*We're **having** the party at the café in the park.*

We also use present continuous to ask about plans.

*Where **are** you **having** the party?*

going to

Use *going to* for a plan or intention decided before the moment of speaking.

*We're **going to have** some music and dancing.*
 (=We decided this a few days ago.)

You can say *going to go* but we normally say *going*:

*I'm going to go to New York. = I'm **going to** New York.*

Present continuous or going to?

You can use either form to talk about plans and arrangements in the future, but the present continuous usually specifies the time:

*We're **having** a party on Sunday.*

*We're **going to have** a party.*

When you use the present continuous to refer to the future, use a future time expression. Otherwise the present continuous refers to the present.

*We're **having** a party.* (=now, at the time of speaking)

*We're **having** a party **on Sunday**.* (= in the future)

will / won't

Use *will* + infinitive without *to* for a decision made at the time of speaking.

A: Your friend left a message to call her back.

*B: Right. I'll **call** her now.*

going to or will?

You can use *going to* and *will* to talk about a making decision but there is a difference:

*She left a message so I'm **going to** call her back.*
 (= decision made before speaking)

*I didn't know she'd called. I'll **call** her back now.*
 (=decision made at the time of speaking)

Present simple

Use the present simple for an event that is timetabled or scheduled.

*The party **starts** at five. The flight **leaves** in the morning.*

Exercises

1 Match 1–4 with a–d.

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| 1 We're going | a arrives at ten. |
| 2 We're | b to move house next year. |
| 3 The lorry | c moving house next week. |
| 4 I'll | d meet you at your house. |

2 Choose the correct forms.

- 1 *Are they ever going to finish / Are they ever finishing* building the new road?
- 2 The timetable for the trains from Scotland says your train *arrives / is going to arrive* at midday.
- 3 A: Has Dorothy sent us an email with the directions to her house?
B: I don't know. *I check / 'll check* my inbox.
- 4 You *'ll join / 're going to join* the army! When did you make that decision?
- 5 What time *do / are your* parents normally *get / getting* home from work?
- 6 Sandy and Michelle *come / are coming* on holiday with us. Is that OK?

3 Tick (✓) the sentences where you can use the present continuous without changing the future meaning.

- 1 We're going to speak to everyone in about an hour. ✓
- 2 I'm going to ask him to call you back. ✗
- 3 Lucinda isn't going to arrive until three.
- 4 Is she going to explain how to answer these questions?
- 5 I'm going to tidy my room. I promise I will.
- 6 The children are going to start school at the end of August.
- 7 Everyone is going to meet in the town square at midnight.
- 8 They're going to rebuild that old house.

4 Complete the emails with the *will* or *going to* form of the verbs in brackets.

 New  Reply  Forward  Print  Delete

Hi Mariana

I have a conference in Brazil next month and I ¹ _____ (stay) in Rio for three days so we can meet!
Raul

Hi Raul

Great! The problem is I've already planned my holiday for next month - I ² _____ (travel) round Argentina with Lizzie and we ³ _____ (not return) until the 18th. Is that too late? I could change our flights I suppose.
M.

Don't worry. I ⁴ _____ (ask) my boss about extending the trip by a couple of days. It might be possible
Raul

OK. I ⁵ _____ (not change) my flights for now. But let me know if it isn't possible for you.
M.