

# “be going to” vs “will”

Differences between Future Tenses

1. We use “going to ” to talk about a planned activity for future.

A: I feel cold.

B: Look at those black clouds. It is going to rain.

A: Why is Betty in a hurry?

B: Because she is going to meet her brother at the station at six.

2. We use “will ” when we decide to do something at the time of speaking.

A: What would you like to drink, sir?

B: I will have a glass of milk, please.

A: Oh, you have left the door open.

B: Have I? I will go and shut it.

3. We use “going to” for prediction in the near future.  
The speaker is sure because there are signs about it.

She is standing at the edge of the cliff, she is going to fall.

A: What is the problem? There are strange noises in the lift.

B: I think the lift is going to break down .Let's get out!

3. We use “going to” for prediction in the near future.  
The speaker is sure because there are signs about it.

A: I feel cold.

B: Look at those black clouds. It is going to rain.

A: What is the matter with you?

B: I feel terrible. I think I am going to be ill.

4. We use “will ” for prediction in the remote future.

A: How is he, doctor?

B: Don't worry. He will get better.

A: The bridge is not so safe.

B: Yes. One day it will break down.

5. We use “will ” for requests, invitations and offers.

Will you shut the door, please? (Request)

Will you come to the cinema with me? (Invitation)

That bag looks very heavy. I will help you. (Offer)

6. We generally use “will ” for prediction with the following verbs and phrases.

believe/ expect/ hope/ think/ wonder/ I’m sure/ I’m afraid

I believe he will pass the exam.

I hope he won’t leave us.

I am afraid he will fail the exam.

Do you think they will divorce?



## 7. We use “will ” with the adverbs. (perhaps, probably, certainly)

- Perhaps they will support you in the election.
- Jackson will probably go to London next year.
- ~~✘~~ we don't use “going to”.

## 8. We use “will ” to express promise.

- I will study medicine at university.
- I will stop going to the casino.
- ✘ we don't use “going to”.

## 9. We use “will ” in a question tag after imperative.

- Do it today, will you?
- Don't look at your friend's paper, will you?
- ✘ we don't use “going to”.

10. We use “will ” to give an order or state our wishes.

- Will you turn on the lights?

- ~~we~~ we don't use “going to”.