

You are about to enter the Twilight Zone – a place where strange things are sure to happen. A new world will open before your eyes. It's likely to change the way you think and feel. It's an experience you're unlikely to forget. And one you're bound to want to repeat!

Wow! That was amazing! I thought I was going to die!



Presentation

about to

Use *be about to* + infinitive to say that something is going to happen in the immediate future:

You are about to enter the Twilight Zone.

bound to

Use *be bound to* + infinitive to say that you believe something is sure to happen:

You're bound to want to do it again. (= We're sure you'll want to do it again.)

likely to

Use *be likely to* + infinitive to say that you think it is probable that something will happen:

It's likely to change the way you think.

unlikely to

Use *be unlikely to* + infinitive to say that you don't think that something will happen:

It's an experience you're unlikely to forget.

future in the past

You can use all the expressions above to talk about the future in the past:

I was about to leave the house when the phone rang.

He was bound to find out in the end.

We had no idea when he was likely to arrive.

It was unlikely to rain, so we didn't take an umbrella.

was / were going to

You can also use *was/were going to* to talk about the future in the past. Use *was/were going to*:

- to make a prediction which may or may not have been fulfilled: *It was going to be a great experience.*
- to talk about an intention which may or may not have been fulfilled: *I was going to work all night, but then a friend called and persuaded me to go out.*
I was going to work all night, even if it meant I was exhausted the next day.
- to talk about a plan or arrangement which then changed: *We were going to go to the party, but then we changed our minds.*
- to report a thought: *I knew I was going to fall, but I could do nothing to stop myself.*
- in reported speech: *I told you it was going to be the best ride ever!*

See Unit 56: Future verb forms review

See Unit 71: Reported speech

1 🎧 Choose the correct options to complete the sentences. Then listen and check.

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| <p>1 A: Where's John?
B: He's <i>about</i> / <i>bound</i> to be late. He always is.</p> <p>2 A: Do you think I should remind Tina about her mum's birthday?
B: No, I don't think it's necessary. She's <i>bound</i> / <i>unlikely</i> to forget.</p> <p>3 A: Sorry, are you <i>about</i> / <i>likely</i> to go out? Have you got a minute?
B: Sure, how can I help you?</p> | <p>4 A: We'd better say goodbye now, as we're <i>about</i> / <i>unlikely</i> to see you later.
B: Yes, it was great meeting you. Have a good trip.</p> <p>5 A: Oh no! That was Sue's favourite glass! What are we going to do?
B: There's no point hiding it. She's <i>likely</i> / <i>bound</i> to find out sooner or later.</p> |
|---|---|

2 Complete the second sentence using the words in bold.

- 1 It'll probably rain this weekend.
likely It rain this weekend.
- 2 I was sure he'd come back again soon.
bound He come back again soon.
- 3 I was getting ready to leave the office when the boss walked in.
about I leave the office when the boss walked in.
- 4 I didn't think he was going to find out about the plan.
unlikely I thought he find out about the plan.
- 5 Ssh, it's almost time for the film to start.
about Ssh! The film start.
- 6 It doesn't look as if he's going to get the job.
unlikely He get the job.

3 Match 1–6 with A–F to make sentences.

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| <p>1 I wasn't going to call you,</p> <p>2 He wasn't going to have a holiday that summer</p> <p>3 They were going to leave for the airport at 5 a.m.,</p> <p>4 They weren't going to take their dog with them</p> <p>5 She was going to study fashion and design at university,</p> <p>6 You weren't going to leave</p> | <p>A because it hated travelling.</p> <p>B but she failed her exams.</p> <p>C but then Jen said you'd appreciate it if I did.</p> <p>D so they had to get to bed early.</p> <p>E until his father offered to pay for him.</p> <p>F without saying goodbye, were you?</p> |
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4 Answer these questions using *was/were going to*.

- 1 When you were a child, what did you want to be as an adult?
- 2 What were your holiday plans last year? Did everything go to plan?
- 3 Have you ever had to change a plan? Why?