



Presentation

going to

You can use *be + going to + infinitive* to talk about intentions or plans for the future:

I'm going to stay single.

I'm never going to get married.

Affirmative and negative

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|----------|--------------|
| I | 'm / 'm not | going to | get married. |
| He / She / It | 's / isn't | | |
| You / We / They | 're / aren't | | |

Question

| | | | | |
|--------|-----|-----------------|----------|---------------|
| (When) | Am | I | going to | invite Harry? |
| | Is | he / she / it | | |
| | Are | you / we / they | | |

Present continuous

You can use the present continuous to talk about arrangements in the future:

Paula and I are getting married on 1st May.

I'm meeting Harry tomorrow night at eight.

See also Units 8 and 9.

Present continuous or going to?

You can use either form to talk about plans and arrangements in the future:

We're playing tennis tomorrow.

We're going to play tennis tomorrow.

When you use the present continuous to talk about the future you normally use a specific future time expression:

We're playing tennis tomorrow.

If you don't use a future time expression (or the time is not obvious), the present continuous refers to the present time:

We're playing tennis tomorrow. (= future)

We're playing tennis. (= now at the moment of speaking)

go and come

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

Who's coming to your wedding? (not *Who's going to come to your wedding?*)

Who's going to the wedding? (not *Who's going to go to the wedding?*)

1 Look at the pictures and write sentences. Use *going to* and the phrases in the box.

become a firefighter buy a Ferrari get married grow her own food have a long holiday
start his diet next week ~~travel round the world~~ try something exciting



1 He's going to travel round the world.



2 He



3 They



4 She



5 He



6 He



7 She



8 She

2 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.
- 9 Are you going to tell her how you really feel? She needs to know.
- 10 The whole family is going to spend their next holiday on the beach.

3 Complete these sentences about your plans and intentions for the future.

- 1 Next week I'm going to
- 2 Next month I'm going to
- 3 Next year I'm going to