



- A: Ah! So you've got 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 drink 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: Fancy coming? 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 timetabled or 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 birthday.
- 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!

See page 236: Summary of future forms

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 sun cream.
- 5 I forgot that it's Amy's birthday today!
- 6 Oh no! Look at the traffic.
- 7 Tomorrow is the last day of term.
- 8 Sorry, I can't come to the cinema tomorrow evening.

- A We're going to be late!
- B The doors open at 8 o'clock.
- C I'm babysitting for my neighbour.
- 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 send her a text message.
- H We're meeting at 12 instead of 1.30.

2 Choose the best options. Then listen and check.

- A: ¹We're going / We'll go to the theatre on Saturday.
 B: What ²are 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. ³We're going to meet up / We will meet up for something to eat at the Thai Dragon beforehand. ⁴There's / There'll be me, Rob, Teresa and Stefano. ⁵It's being / It'll be fun.
 B: I'd love to come too. Have you got the tickets yet?
 A: No, I think ⁶I 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 ⁷is staying / will stay with me this weekend.
 A: Sure, ⁸I'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 ⁹I'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 18.30 and arrive in London at 20.25.
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