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There are several different ways to talk about future actions and events in English. They vary in meanings and structures.

One of the most commonly used constructions to express future actions is with '**going to**'.

# What are You Going to Do ?

**What are you going to do  
after class?**

**I'm going to play soccer.**



via <http://learnenglishunesr.blogspot.com/>

## How to form phrases with 'going to'

To talk about about planned actions or events in future, we use '**going to**'.

### Statements

To form the structures with 'going to' in positive sentences, we use:

**am / is / are + going to + the verb** (base form without 'to')

Singular	Plural
<i>I'm going to read</i>	<i>We're going to read</i>
<i>You're going to read</i>	<i>You're going to read</i>
<i>He/she/it's going to read</i>	<i>They're going to read</i>

- John **is going to learn** English.
- We **are going to visit** our parents soon.
- He **is going to run** this evening.

## Negative sentences

We use the negative with 'going to' for things that probably will not or aren't going to happen. To make negative statements with 'going to', we use:

**am / is / are not + going to + the verb** (base form without 'to')

Singular	Plural
<i>I am not ('m not) going to run</i>	<i>We aren't going to run</i>
<i>You're not (aren't) going to run</i>	<i>You aren't going to run</i>
<i>He/she/it's not going to run</i>	<i>They aren't going to run</i>

- The concert has already started. We **aren't going to find** free seats.
- I'm **not going to get** wet; I have a raincoat.
- Tom is sick today, so Jane's **not going to meet** with him.

## Questions

To make questions with 'going to', we change the order and use:

**(question word) am / is / are + subject + going to + the verb** (base form without 'to')

Singular	Plural
<i>Am I going to see them?</i>	<i>Are we going to see them?</i>
<i>Are you going to see them?</i>	<i>Are you going to see them?</i>
<i>Is he/she/it going to see them?</i>	<i>Are they going to see them?</i>

- **Is Jennifer going to be** at the party?
- **Are we going to take** this home with us?
- **Where are you going to travel?**

Note: In short *positive* answers to the questions above we use only *full forms* of 'am/is/are'. However, in short *negative* answers we can also use the *contracted* forms.

- Are you going to read a novel? - Yes, I am. / No, I'm not.
- Is he going to play badminton in the garden? - Yes, he is. / No, he's not. / No, he isn't.
- Are they going to visit their grandparents? - Yes, they are. / No, they're not. / No, they aren't.

Let's summarize:

## Future Tense: Going to → Form

**Affirmative:** I am going to travel by plane

**Interrogative :** Are you going to travel? by plane'

**Negative :** I am not going to travel by plane because I am going to fly in a hot air balloon



via <https://mejoresfotos.eu/the-future-tense.html>

## When to use 'going to' for future

We use going to:

1) to talk about future events that have been planned in advance:

- Michael **is going to buy** a new car next year.
- We **are going to play** tennis in the evening.

2) to make predictions (about the weather, actions of people, etc.) when there is evidence at the present moment:

- *Look at those clouds. (evidence) It's **going to rain** soon. (prediction)*
- *That dog looks really angry. (evidence) It's **going to attack** us. (prediction)*

Here's a good video from 7ESL explaining the difference between 'will' and 'going to':

Read more about future tenses:

[Future with 'Will'](#)

[Present Continuous with Future Meaning](#)

[Future Continuous Tense](#)

[Future Perfect Tense](#)