

PRACTICAL ENGLISH FOR PROFESSIONALS

LESSON 21

WILL VS. BE GOING TO

WILL	
When we want <u>to talk about future facts or things we believe to be true about the future</u> , we use 'will' .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The President will serve for four years. • The boss won't be very happy. • I'm sure you'll like her. • I'm certain he'll do a good job.
If we are <u>not so certain about the future</u> , we use 'will' with expressions such as <u>'probably', 'possibly', 'I think', 'I hope'</u> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I hope you'll visit me in my home one day. • She'll probably be a great success. • I'll possibly come but I may not get back in time. • I think we'll get on well.
BE GOING TO	
If you are making <u>a future prediction based on evidence in the present situation</u> , use 'be going to' .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not a cloud in the sky. It's going to be another warm day. • Look at the queue. We're not going to get in for hours. • The traffic is terrible. We're going to miss our flight. • Be careful! You're going to spill your coffee.
WILL/BE GOING TO	
At the moment of making a decision , use 'will' . Once you have made the decision, talk about it using 'going to' .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'll call Jenny to let her know. Sarah, I need Jenny's number. I'm going to call her about the meeting. • I'll come and have a drink with you but I must let Harry know. Harry, I'm going to have a drink with Simon.

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Complete the sentences using “will/won’t” or “be (not) going to”:

- A: I’d love a cup of tea.
B: Good idea. I _____ make some.
- A: What is Jack studying?
B: Medicine. He _____ be a doctor.
- A: What are you doing over the summer?
B: We _____ spend it in England.
- A: Can you call him back?
B: Of course. I _____ call him now.
- A: What do you think the weather _____ be like tomorrow?
B: The forecast is for sunny intervals.
- A: Don’t forget to give me your keys.
B: No, I _____ give you them now.
- A: Have you decided what to do?
B: Yes, I _____ to sell. It’s not a good time.
- A: How much more have you got to do?
B: Too much. I _____ never get it finished.
- A: How old is Emily?
B: She _____ be forty next month.
- A: Is Anne happy in her new job?
B: No, she isn’t. She _____ resign.
- Can’t you drive faster? We _____ get there until late afternoon at this rate.
- Don’t go in April, the weather _____ be better in June.
- He _____ be there yet. He said he’d arrive around 6.30.
- It’s already half past seven. I _____ be late.
- I think he _____ get here in a few minutes.
- Look out! You _____ crash into a cyclist if you’re not careful.
- If we don’t go now, we _____ be late.
- I’m sure you _____ have a wonderful time.
- I’ve accepted the job. I _____ become the shop manager.
- We’ve decided we _____ sell the house and move to something smaller.