



## THE FUTURE: GOING TO & PRESENT CONTINUOUS WITH FUTURE MEANING

In addition to the simple future, we can talk about future events, that is to say, **future plans** by using either:

- **the present continuous, or**
- **to be (in the simple present) + going to +verb**

These two forms are used to talk about future plans. There are, however, some differences between the two forms:

### THE PRESENT CONTINUOUS FOR FUTURE PLANS

- **HOW DO WE FORM THE PRESENT CONTINUOUS FOR FUTURE PLANS?**

#### The verb *To be* (in the simple present) + Verb -ing

- Affirmative: **I'm meeting** my friends in two hours.
- Negative: **I'm not having** dinner out tonight.
- Interrogative: **Are you coming** to the swimming-pool this afternoon?

- **IN WHICH CASES DO WE USE IT?**

The present continuous is used when we say what we have planned and arranged to do at a **specific time in the near or immediate future**. These are fixed plans with definite time and/or place.

#### Examples:

- **I'm doing** my homework this evening.
- **I'm starting** University in September.
- Sally **is meeting** John at nine o'clock tonight in a restaurant in town.

## BE GOING TO

### • HOW DO WE FORM THIS VERB TENSE?

#### The verb *To be* (in the simple present) + *Going to* + infinitive

- Affirmative: **I'm going to buy** a new car.
- Negative: **I'm not going to study** at University.
- Interrogative: **Are you going to** have another baby?

### • IN WHICH CASES DO WE USE IT?

A) We use ***be going to*** to express the future **when we intend to do something** or have decided to do something **but did not arrange it. It is just an intention.**

#### Example:

- "The windows are dirty." "Yes I know. I'm going to clean them later."  
= I've decided to clean them, but I haven't arranged when to clean them.

B) We also use ***be going to*** to make **predictions.**

#### Example:

- Watch out! You are going to break the glass.
- It's so cloudy! I think it's going to rain.

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## WORKSHEET

1. Complete these sentences with an appropriate form of the present continuous with future meaning.

- I ..... (fly) by plane tomorrow.
- Hi, what time ..... (he/ leave) this evening?
- ..... (you/ travel) tomorrow to Paris?
- I ..... (go) to the cinema tonight.
- Their parents ..... (have) a meeting on Saturday.

**2. Complete the conversation with the different forms of *be going to*.**

**ROSIE:** Hi, Sara! (1) ..... (you / be at the barbecue tonight?)

**SARA:** Yes, I am.

**ROSIE:** What (2) ..... (you / wear?)

**SARA:** I don't know. What about you?

**ROSIE:** (3) ..... (I / wear my summer dress)

**SARA:** Is Anita coming?

**ROSIE:** I think so. (4) ..... (I / send her a message) and check.

**SARA:** (5) ..... (Steve / be there?)

**ROSIE:** Yes, he is.

**SARA:** Good. I have to go now. I'll see you at the barbecue.

**ROSIE:** Ok. What (6) ..... (you / to do now?)

**SARA:** (7) ..... (I / get ready). I want to wash my hair.

**ROSIE:** Ok. (8) ..... (I / do my homework). I'll see you later.

**SARA:** Bye.

**3. Put in the verb in brackets into the gaps. Use *will* or *be going to*.**

- a) Philipp ..... (be) 15 years old next Wednesday.
- b) They ..... (get) a new computer.
- c) I think my mother ..... (like) this CD.
- d) Paul's sister ..... (have) a baby.
- e) They ..... (arrive) about 4 in the afternoon.
- f) Just a moment. I ..... (help) with the bags.
- g) In 2020, people ..... (buy) more hybrid cars.
- h) Marvin ..... (throw) a party next week.
- i) We ..... (fly) to Venice in June.

j) Look at the clouds! It ..... (rain) soon.