



Sandra: Hello, Sandra speaking.

Peter: Hi Sandra. It's Peter. Are you OK?

Sandra: I'm running to work because I'm late. I'm meeting my boss this morning and I'm a bit worried about it.

Peter: I'm sure it'll be fine. He'll probably give you a pay rise.

Sandra: Or maybe he's about to fire me!

Peter: I'm sure he won't do that. Anyway, I'll be quick. Are you doing anything tonight?

Sandra: I don't think so.

Peter: I'm going to see a film. Do you want to come?

Sandra: I might do. It depends on how today goes.

Peter: Stop worrying about your boss. Anyway, the film ...

Sandra: Sorry but I'm really late. I'll call you back later.

Presentation

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:

I'm meeting my boss later. / I'm going to meet my boss later.

I'm not doing anything later. / I'm not going to do anything later.

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 make predictions about the future: *It'll be fine. / It's going to be fine.*

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.

Add **probably** if you are slightly less sure: *He'll probably give you a pay rise.*

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: *I'm late. I'll call you back later.*

might and *about to*

Use *might* when you are less sure about a prediction, or less confident about a plan: *He might fire me!*

Use *about to* to:

- make a prediction about something that will happen soon: *I think my boss is about to fire me.*
- talk about something you plan to do very soon: *I'm about to go into a meeting.*

Exercises

1 Match 1–8 with A–H.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 There's been a change of plan. <u>H</u> | A We're going to be late! |
| 2 Quick, let's find a seat. | B The film is about to start. |
| 3 I didn't do very well in my exams. | C I'm babysitting for my neighbour. |
| 4 You'd better bring some sun cream. | D But I'm going to study harder this year. |
| 5 I forgot that it's Amy's birthday today! | E It's going to be really hot today. |
| 6 Oh no! Look at the traffic. | F So I'll probably be a few minutes late. |
| 7 I need to stop at the shop on my way. | G I'll send her a text message. |
| 8 Sorry, I can't come to the cinema tonight. | H We're meeting at 12 instead of 1.30. |

2 Choose the best options. Then listen and check.

- | | |
|--|---|
| A: ¹ <i>We're going / We'll go</i> to the theatre on Saturday. | A: No, I think ⁶ <i>I'm about / I'm going</i> to buy them online later today. Do you want me to get one for you? |
| B: What ² <i>are you going to / will</i> you see? | B: Could you get two? Jane ⁷ <i>is staying / will stay</i> with me this weekend. |
| A: It's a Cuban dance group. They're great. Do you want to come, too? | A: Sure, ⁸ <i>I'm doing / I'll do</i> that this morning – as soon as I've finished my breakfast! |
| B: What time does the show start? | B: Thanks a lot! Let me know how much it is and ⁹ <i>I'm paying / I'll pay</i> you on Saturday. |
| A: At 9.30. ³ <i>We're going to meet up / We will meet up</i> for something to eat at the Thai Dragon beforehand. I think ⁴ <i>there's / there'll</i> be me, Rob, Teresa and Stefano. ⁵ <i>It's being / It'll be</i> fun. | A: OK. Speak soon! |
| B: I'd love to come. Have you got the tickets yet? | |

3 Rewrite the sentences with a similar meaning using the words in bold.

- What are your plans for tomorrow?
doing What are you doing tomorrow?
- Who do you think will win the competition?
think/going
- Don't worry, it isn't going to rain tomorrow.
will
- I've arranged to take the day off tomorrow.
taking
- The car engine is making a strange noise. I think it's going to break down.
about
- Do you intend to sell your bike at the end of the summer?
going
- It's going to be really difficult to get there by nine.
will
- It's cloudy outside. Maybe it'll rain later.
might