

Will, Shall, Be Going to

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Hello English learners. Welcome to a new lesson. Many of my students cannot always tell whether to use will or be going to in their sentences. Since grammar is very important, in today's lesson, we will look at the difference between will and going to.

How to use WILL

We use will to talk about the *future facts*.

- *Tom will turn 45 next week.*
- *If you salt the potatoes, they will taste better.*
- *We'll be back next Monday.*

We use **will** to say what we expect will happen in the future, especially with the introductory phrases "*I think*" or "*I don't think*"

- *Don't worry, everything will be alright.*
- *I think Manchester United will win the match.*
- *I don't think your plan will work.*

We always use **will** to make an immediate decision.

- *'It's about to rain.' 'I'll take an umbrella.'*
- *'It's Robert's birthday today.' 'Oh, I forgot. I'll call him now.'*
- *(In a restaurant) 'Would you like to order?' 'I'll have a steak, please.'*

Will is also used to express **offers**:

- *I'll help you with your homework.*
- *I'll carry your bag.*

For **promises**:

- *Thank you for lending me your car. I'll take care of it.*
- *I promise I'll pay you back.*
- *I won't tell anyone, I promise.*

For **requests**:

- *Will you open the door, please?*
- *Will you sing us a song?*
- *You'll be quiet now because I'm on the phone.*

We use **won't** for **refusals**:

- *I won't tolerate your bad behaviour.*
- *Martin won't talk to us.*
- *It's cold, I won't go out.*

How to use shall

We use **shall** in questions in the first person singular and plural to make **suggestions** and **offers**.

- *Shall we go to London on Saturday? (suggestion)*
- *Let's take a break, shall we? (suggestion)*
- *Shall I help you clean the house? (offer)*
- *Shall I bring you another bowl of soup? (offer)*

How to use be going to

We normally use **be going to** to talk about **plans** and **intentions**.

- *I'm going to watch a nice movie on TV tonight.*
- *What are you going to do for the weekend?*
- *We are going to get married!*
- *I'm going to call the police.*

We use **be going to** when we see in the present that something is going to happen.

- *Look at those clouds. It is going to rain.*
- *Mary is pregnant. She's going to have a baby.*
- *I feel sick. I think I'm going to vomit.*

Do the exercise to perfect your knowledge. Fill in the gaps with the correct forms.

1. help me with my homework?
2. It's Jane's birthday on Saturday. get her a book?
3. I promise bring your car back tomorrow.
4. Where stay?
5. The salad taste better with some vinegar in it.
6. I'm sorry about the accident. I promise it happen again.
7. I open the window? It's so hot in here.
8. It's five o'clock. We be late for the meeting.
9. have some fish and chips, please.
10. Robert watch a football match tonight.

The answer key:

1. Will you help me with my homework?
2. It's Jane's birthday on Saturday. Shall we get her a book?
3. I promise I'll bring your car back tomorrow.
4. Where are you going to stay?
5. The salad will taste better with some vinegar in it.
6. I'm sorry about the accident. I promise it won't happen again.
7. Shall I open the window? It's so hot in here.
8. It's five o'clock. We are going to be late for the meeting.
9. I'll have some fish and chips, please.
10. Robert is going to watch a football match tonight.