

WILL + SIMPLE FORM OF VERB

BE GOING TO + SIMPLE FORM

A decision at the moment of speaking:

You choose to do this *as you speak*.

Judy: There's no sugar left.

Cliff: Really? I'll go and buy some.

Sam: I think there's someone at the front door.

Diane: I'll go and check.

***The contracted 'll is typically used in these situations. Do not use 'll in short answers.**

A prediction based on an opinion: When we think or believe something about the future. We usually use "will" for prediction with the following verbs: *believe, expect, hope, think, wonder, I'm sure, I'm afraid, etc.*

"It will snow tomorrow." (It's my feeling, but I can't be sure.)

-I hope he won't leave our company.

-I am afraid he will fail the course.

-I think that the Philadelphia Eagles will win the Super Bowl.

***Predictions about the future can also be made with the "going to" form. However, using "will" is more common.**

A future fact: To express general truths.

-The sun will rise tomorrow.

-Plants will die if they don't receive enough water.

For refusals / promises / requests / offers:

-I will be on time tomorrow. I promise!

-I will always love you. (promise)

A plan / planned decision: It is better to use be going to when you want to talk about a future plan or intention. This shows that you made the decision to do this *before* speaking.

-Tomorrow night, I am going to call Susie.

- In three years I am probably going to travel to Asia.

-Tina (age 9): When I grow up, I'm going to be the president of a major corporation.

A prediction made on the basis of current evidence: Actions or events that you feel will happen very soon based on something we can see or hear now.

-Look at those gray clouds. It's going to snow soon.

-The Liberals are going to win the election. They already have most of the votes from what I hear.

-Oh no! That kid is going to fall down the steps.

Ted: Remember. This is top secret.

Ginny: I won't tell anybody. You can rely on me.

Jose: I'm having problems with my homework. Will you help me? (request)

Maria: I'll help you tomorrow, if you'd like. (offer)

-We asked him to help our committee, but he will not do it. (refusal)