

Will or GOING TO?

a. Talking about future actions or circumstances

We can use both **will** and **going to** in order to talk about our future actions, but there is an obvious difference. Study these examples:

Harry's bike has a flat tire. He tells his dad.

Harry: My bike has a flat tire. Can you fix it for me?

Dad: Okay, but I can't do it now. **I'll** repair it tomorrow.

will: We can use **will** when we decide to do something at the time of speaking. The speaker has not decided beforehand. Before Harry told his dad, his dad did not know about the flat tire.

Later, Harry's mom speaks to her husband

Mom: Can you fix Harry's bike? It has a flat tire.

Dad: Yes, I know. He told me. **I'm going to** fix it tomorrow.

going to: We can use **going to** when we have already chosen to do something. Harry's dad had already decided to repair the bike before his wife spoke to him.

Here is another example:

Terry is cooking when he suddenly realizes there isn't any salt:

Terry: Ann, we don't have any salt.

Ann: Oh, we don't? **I'll** buy some from the corner store. (*she decides at the time of speaking*)

Before going out, Ann says to Joe:

Ann: **I'm going to buy** some salt from the corner store. (*she has already decided*) Can I get you anything, Joe?

b. Saying what will happen (predicting future occurrences)

We can use both **will** and **going to** in order to say what we think will happen in the future.

→ Do you think Lara **will get** the job?

→ Oh no! It's already 5:00 P.M. **We're going to be** late.

We use **going to** (not **will**) when there is something in the present situation that shows what will happen in the future (especially in the near future). The speaker or writer feels sure about what

will happen because of the situation now.

→ Look at those dark clouds. **It's going to rain.** (the clouds are there *now*)

→ I feel terrible. I think **I'm going to be** sick. (I feel terrible *now*)

*Do not use **will** in situations like these.*

In other situations, use **will**.

→ Sarah **will** probably **arrive** at 7 o'clock.

→ I think Jorge **will like** the gift you bought for him.