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Talking about the future

The garden festival





Grammar at a glance

When you want to…	Form to use	Worked example
State a prior intention	am/is/are going to + base	I am going to bring a torch.
Make an offer now	will + base	That bag looks heavy. I'll help.
Predict from a sign	be going to + base	The tower is leaning. It is going to fall.
Ask about an intention	be + subject + going to + base?	Are they going to stay?

SELECT A ROW TO OPEN ITS LESSON

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TALKING ABOUT THE FUTURE

Explain an intention already decided



The team decided yesterday to prepare the garden tomorrow. Today, tell the volunteers what the team intends to do.

Be going to can describe an intention already formed. Match am, is or are to the subject.

USE	EXAMPLE	WHAT TO NOTICE
Work happening now	Lily is watering the plants now.	Is watering describes an action in progress.
An intention for tomorrow	Lily is going to water the plants tomorrow.	Is going to water presents an intention about a later action.
Another example	I am going to bring a torch.	State a prior intention. Pattern: am/is/are going to + base.

HOW THE PATTERN WORKS

She is planting now. She is going to plant tomorrow.

Does going to always mean walking somewhere?

No. “I am going to read” can express an intention while sitting still. Read the complete structure and situation.

YOUR TURN

“She ___ going to bring fruit.”

are / is

> Answer • is
> She takes is.

TALKING ABOUT THE FUTURE

Respond, offer and promise

An extra table arrives and someone needs help. Sam makes a decision as he speaks. Later, Lily makes a promise.

Will can express a decision made as you speak, an offer or a promise. Follow will with the base verb.

USE	EXAMPLE	WHAT TO NOTICE
A prepared intention	I am going to carry the tables tomorrow.	The speaker is presenting an intention already formed.
A new offer	That looks heavy. I will help you.	The speaker offers help in response to the situation.
A promise	I will return your tools tomorrow. I promise.	Will expresses a commitment here, not a guarantee about every future event.

HOW THE PATTERN WORKS

Subject	Modal helper	Base action	Object
She	will	carry	the box.

Does will always mean the decision is spontaneous?

No. Will has several uses, including promises and predictions. The lesson's offer situation illustrates one use, not an absolute rule for all future language.

YOUR TURN

Change only the action word: "He will opens the gate."

> Answer • He will open the gate.
> Will takes the base verb open.

TALKING ABOUT THE FUTURE

Evidence, expectation and uncertainty



Clouds gather above the garden. A loose pot leans towards the edge. The team predicts what could happen and prepares, without pretending to know the future for certain.

Going to often points to present evidence for a prediction. Will can express an expectation. The forms sometimes overlap.

USE	EXAMPLE	WHAT TO NOTICE
Visible evidence	Look at those dark clouds. It is going to rain.	Going to highlights evidence the speaker can see now.
An expectation	I think the visitors will enjoy the garden.	Will expresses an expectation. The speaker does not know for certain.
Compare both	It will rain. It is going to rain.	Both forms can make predictions. Context and emphasis help explain the speaker's choice.

HOW THE PATTERN WORKS

I think our guests will like the flowers, but we cannot know for sure.

Does strong evidence make a prediction guaranteed?

No. People can intervene and conditions can change. Explain the evidence and treat the statement as an expectation.

YOUR TURN

"The shelf is wobbling. It is going to fall." What is the evidence?

The shelf will be fixed next week. / The shelf is wobbling.

> Answer • The shelf is wobbling.
> The present wobble supports the prediction.

TALKING ABOUT THE FUTURE

Ask about plans and say what will not happen

Before the volunteers leave, check tomorrow's jobs. Ask about intentions, make requests and rule out plans that have changed.

Move the helper before the subject to ask a question. Use will not or won't to express a negative future meaning.

USE	EXAMPLE	WHAT TO NOTICE
Check a plan	Are you going to bring the signs?	Move are before you to ask about the intention.
Make a request	Will you help me carry the table?	Will before you can make a request. The verb after will stays in its base form: help.
Change an intention	We are not going to use paper cups.	Put not after are to state what the team does not intend to do.

HOW THE PATTERN WORKS

Question helper	Subject	Intention structure	Base action	Object
Are	they	going to	bring	the signs?

Is won't the same as did not?

No. Won't means will not. It does not turn a sentence into a past negative.

YOUR TURN

Reorder the words to ask whether the visitors plan to come.

visit? / to / going / they / Are

> Answer • Are they going to visit?
> Are moves before they.

VERB FORM REFERENCE / 1 OF 2

Simple and continuous

Follow one writer through three time frames. Read across each row to see how a statement becomes a negative or a question.

FORM AND USE	STATEMENT	NEGATIVE	QUESTION
base verb; he/she/it adds -s • A regular activity			
Present simple	Noor writes every day.	Noor does not write every day.	Does Noor write every day?
am/is/are + -ing • An activity in progress now			
Present continuous	Noor is writing now.	Noor is not writing now.	Is Noor writing now?
past form; did + base in questions • A completed event at a finished time			
Past simple	Noor wrote yesterday.	Noor did not write yesterday.	Did Noor write yesterday?
was/were + -ing • An activity in progress at a past point			
Past continuous	Noor was writing at noon.	Noor was not writing at noon.	Was Noor writing at noon?
will + base verb • An expectation about a later event			
Future with will	Noor will write tomorrow.	Noor will not write tomorrow.	Will Noor write tomorrow?
will be + -ing • An activity in progress at a future point			
Future continuous	Noor will be writing at noon.	Noor will not be writing at noon.	Will Noor be writing at noon?

BUILD THE VERB GROUP

Simple statements use write, writes or wrote. In negatives and questions, do, does or did takes the tense and write stays in its base form. Continuous forms use be + writing.

VERB FORM REFERENCE / 2 OF 2

Perfect and perfect continuous

A perfect form looks back from a reference point. Compare a completed result with time spent on an activity.

FORM AND USE	STATEMENT	NEGATIVE	QUESTION
have/has + past participle • A result connected to now			
Present perfect	Noor has written the note.	Noor has not written the note.	Has Noor written the note?
have/has been + -ing • Activity over a period up to now			
Present perfect continuous	Noor has been writing since ten.	Noor has not been writing since ten.	Has Noor been writing since ten?
had + past participle • Completion before a past reference point			
Past perfect	Noor had written it by noon.	Noor had not written it by noon.	Had Noor written it by noon?
had been + -ing • Ongoing activity up to a past point			
Past perfect continuous	By noon, Noor had been writing for an hour.	By noon, Noor had not been writing for an hour.	Had Noor been writing for an hour by noon?
will have + past participle • Completion by a future reference point			
Future perfect	Noor will have written it by Friday.	Noor will not have written it by Friday.	Will Noor have written it by Friday?
will have been + -ing • Duration measured at a future point			
Future perfect continuous	By noon, Noor will have been writing for an hour.	By noon, Noor will not have been writing for an hour.	Will Noor have been writing for an hour by noon?

BUILD THE VERB GROUP

Perfect = have + written. Perfect continuous = have + been + writing. Change the first helper for the time frame. Put not after that helper to negate, or move it before the subject to ask.

ONE LAST CHALLENGE

A plan meets a problem

You already plan to bring fruit tomorrow. Someone now says they need help carrying boxes. State your plan, then make an offer.



A POSSIBLE ANSWER

I’m going to bring fruit tomorrow. I’ll help you carry the boxes.

Going to suits the earlier intention. I’ll help makes an offer as you speak.

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