

Beginner

The Use of I will and I'm going to

RULES AND EXAMPLES

We use **will ('ll)** and **(be) going to** in future actions.

Will ('ll): We use **will** when we decide to do something at the time of speaking.

Example: A conversation between Ryo and Ota.

Ryo: Let's have a party.

Ota: That's a great idea! **We'll invite** lots of people.

Note that Ota used **will (we'll)** because she has not decided to invite lots of people before she and Helen talked. The **party** is a new idea. Now let's see, later that day, Ota meets Maya:

Ota: Hi Maya! Ryo and I have decided to have a party. **We're going to** invite lots of people.

Maya: Wow, I think that will be great!

(Be) going to: We use **(be) going to** when we have already decided to do something. Helen had already decided to invite lots of people before she spoke to Dave.

More Examples: Try to compare the following sentences:

1. 'Mori phoned while you were out.' 'OK, **I'll call** him back.'
'Mori phoned while you were out.' 'Yes, I know. I'm going to call him back.'
2. 'Tago is in hospital.' 'Oh, really? I didn't know. I'll go and visit her.'
'Tago is in hospital.' 'Yes, I know. I'm going to visit her this evening.'

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Future happenings and situations (predicting the future).

Sometimes there is not much difference between **will** and **going to**. You can say,

I think that the weather **will** be nice this afternoon. Or,
I think that the weather **is going to** be nice this afternoon.

When we say something **is going to** happen, we think this is because of the situation **now**.

Examples:

Look at those black clouds. It's **going to rain**. (*not* it will rain)
(We can see that it **is going to rain** from the clouds that are in the sky *now*)

I feel terrible. I think I'm **going to be** sick. (*not* I think I'll be sick)
(I think I'm **going to be** sick because I feel terrible *now*.)

Important: Do not use **will** in this type of situation.

In other situations, use **will**:

Ikeda **will** probably **get** here at about 8 o'clock.
I think Akihiro **will like** the present we bought for her.
These shoes are very well-made. They'll **last** a long time.