

Will vs. Going to Future

The concepts of **will** and **going to future** can be very confusing. They both refer to events in the future and are often interchangeable with no difference in meaning.



English: Grammatical Tenses/Robbie Muffin

Let's first look at how both tenses are created:

Formation

will future: *will/will not (won't) + verb*

Example: He will swim. He will not/won't

going to future: *be (am/is/are) + (not) going to + verb*

Example: He is going to swim. He is not/isn't

Now, let's see when to use **will** and when to use **going to future**:

Usage

WILL	GOING TO
<p>Rapid Decision: I'm hungry. I will buy a sandwich.</p>	<p>Prior Plan - <i>The decision was made before:</i> I'm going to the lake next week.</p>
<p>Offer: That looks difficult. I will help you.</p>	<p>Evidence/Signs - <i>It's very likely to happen:</i> My stomach hurts, I am going to throw up. It's 7:1. They are going to win.</p>
<p>Promise: Don't worry, I won't tell anyone your secret.</p>	<p>Very near future - <i>Something is about to happen:</i> The bomb is going to explode!</p>
<p>Threat: I will tell mom if you don't stop!</p>	
<p>Refusal:</p>	
WILL or GOING TO	
<p>Predictions: I think it will rain tomorrow. = I think it is going to rain tomorrow.</p>	

Will vs. Going to Future

Finally, put your new knowledge to use! :-)

Exercise

① For each of the 9 premises below, come up with your own fitting sentence (or question) deciding on using either **will** or **going to future**!

2. Predictions

6. Evidence/Signs

9. Threat

5. Offer


8. Promise

7. Prior Plan

4. Refusal

3. Rapid Decision

1. Very near future

 Try not looking at the table until you are done!

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____
- 7. _____
- 8. _____
- 9. _____