

## Will/shall (1)

A

We use I'll (= I will) when we decide to do something at the time of speaking:

- Oh, I've left the door open. I'll go and shut it.
- 'What would you like to drink?' 'I'll have an orange juice, please.'
- 'Did you phone Ruth?' 'Oh no, I forgot. I'll phone her now.'

You cannot use the *present simple* (I do / I go etc.) in these sentences:

- I'll go and shut the door. (*not* 'I go and shut')

We often use I think I'll... and I don't think I'll...:

- I feel a bit hungry. I think I'll have something to eat.
- I don't think I'll go out tonight. I'm too tired.

In spoken English the negative of will is usually won't (= will not):

- I can see you're busy, so I won't stay long.

B

Do not use will to talk about what you have already decided or arranged to do (see Units 19-20):

- I'm going on holiday next Saturday. (*not* 'I'll go')
- Are you working tomorrow? (*not* 'will you work')

C

We often use will in these situations:

### Offering to do something

- That bag looks heavy. I'll help you with it. (*not* 'I help')

### Agreeing to do something

- A: You know that book I lent you. Can I have it back if you've finished with it?  
B: Of course. I'll give it to you this afternoon. (*not* 'I give')

### Promising to do something

- Thanks for lending me the money. I'll pay you back on Friday. (*not* 'I pay')
- I won't tell anyone what happened. I promise.

### Asking somebody to do something (Will you...?)

- Will you please be quiet? I'm trying to concentrate.
- Will you shut the door, please?

You can use won't to say that somebody refuses to do something:

- I've tried to advise her but she won't listen. (= she refuses to listen)
- The car won't start. I wonder what's wrong with it. (= the car 'refuses' to start)

D

### Shall I...? Shall we...?

Shall is used mostly in the questions shall I...? / shall we...?

We use shall I...? / shall we...? to ask somebody's opinion (especially in offers or suggestions):

- Shall I open the window? (= do you want me to open the window?)
- I've got no money. What shall I do? (= what do you suggest?)
- 'Shall we go?' 'Just a minute. I'm not ready yet.'
- Where shall we go this evening?

Compare shall I...? and will you...?:

- Shall I shut the door? (= do you want me to shut it?)
- Will you shut the door? (= I want you to shut it)

## EXERCISES

21.1 Complete the sentences with I'll + a suitable verb.

- 1 I'm too tired to walk home. I think ...I'll get... a taxi.
- 2 'It's a bit cold in this room.' 'Is it? ..... on the heating then.'
- 3 'We haven't got any milk.' 'Oh, haven't we? ..... and get some.'
- 4 'Do you want me to do the washing-up?' 'No, it's all right. .... it.'
- 5 'I don't know how to use this computer.' 'OK, ..... you.'
- 6 'Would you like tea or coffee?' '..... coffee, please.'
- 7 'Goodbye! Have a nice holiday.' 'Thanks. .... you a postcard.'
- 8 Thank you for lending me your camera. .... it back to you on Monday, OK?
- 9 'Are you coming with us?' 'No, I think ..... here.'

21.2 Read the situations and write sentences with I think I'll... or I don't think I'll... .

- 1 It's a bit cold. You decide to close the window. You say: ...I think I'll close the window....
- 2 You are feeling tired and it's quite late. You decide to go to bed. You say:  
I think .....
- 3 A friend of yours offers you a lift in his car but you decide to walk. You say:  
Thank you but .....
- 4 You arranged to play tennis today. Now you decide that you don't want to play. You say:  
I don't think .....
- 5 You were going to go swimming. Now you decide that you don't want to go.  
.....

21.3 Which is correct? (If necessary, study Units 19-20 first.)

- 1 'Did you phone Ruth?' 'Oh no, I forgot. I phone / I'll phone her now.' (I'll phone is correct)
- 2 I can't meet you tomorrow afternoon. I'm playing / I'll play tennis. (I'm playing is correct)
- 3 'I meet / I'll meet you outside the hotel in half an hour, OK?' 'Yes, that's fine.'
- 4 'I need some money.' 'OK, I'm lending / I'll lend you some. How much do you need?'
- 5 'I'm having / I'll have a party next Saturday. I hope you can come.'
- 6 'Remember to buy a newspaper when you go out.' 'OK. I don't forget / I won't forget.'
- 7 What time does your train leave / will your train leave tomorrow?
- 8 I asked Sue what happened but she doesn't tell / won't tell me.
- 9 'Are you doing / Will you do anything tomorrow evening?' 'No, I'm free. Why?'
- 10 I don't want to go out alone. Do you come / Will you come with me?
- 11 It's a secret between us. I promise I don't tell / I won't tell anybody.

21.4 What do you say in these situations? Write sentences with shall I...? or shall we...?

- 1 You and a friend want to do something this evening but you don't know what. You ask your friend. ...What shall we do this evening?...
- 2 You try on a jacket in a shop. You are not sure whether to buy it or not. You ask a friend for advice. .... it?
- 3 It's Ann's birthday next week. You want to give her a present but you don't know what. You ask a friend for advice. What .....
- 4 You and a friend are going on holiday together but you haven't decided where. You ask him/her. ....
- 5 You and a friend are going out. You haven't decided whether to go by car or to walk. You ask him/her. .... or .....
- 6 Your friend wants you to phone later. You don't know what time to phone. You ask him/her. ....



# I will and I'm going to


A

Future actions

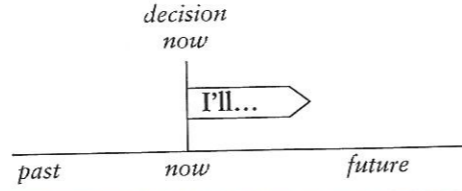
Study the difference between will and going to:

Sue is talking to Helen:

Let's have a party.  
That's a great idea. We'll invite lots of people.

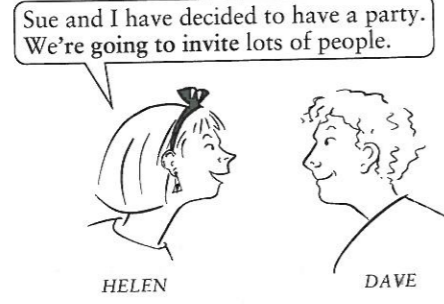


**will ('ll):** We use **will** when we decide to do something at the time of speaking. The speaker has not decided before. The party is a new idea.

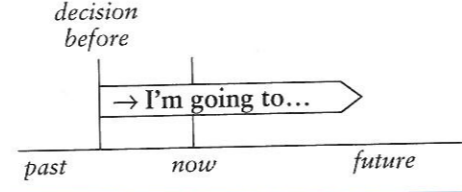


Later that day, Helen meets Dave:

Sue and I have decided to have a party. We're going to invite lots of people.



**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.



Compare:

- 'George phoned while you were out.' 'OK. I'll phone him back.'
- but • 'George phoned while you were out.' 'Yes, I know. I'm going to phone him back.'
- 'Ann is in hospital.' 'Oh really? I didn't know. I'll go and visit her.'
- but • 'Ann is in hospital.' 'Yes, I know. I'm going to visit her tomorrow.'

B

Future happenings and situations (predicting the future)

Sometimes there is not much difference between **will** and **going to**. For example, you can say:

- I think the weather **will** be nice later.
- I think the weather **is going to** be nice later.

When we say 'something **is going to** happen', we know (or think) this because of the situation **now**. For example:

- Look at those black clouds. It's **going to** rain. (*not* 'it will rain' – we can see the clouds *now*)
- I feel terrible. I think I'm **going to** be sick. (*not* 'I think I'll be sick' – I feel terrible *now*)

Do not use **will** in situations like these. (See also Unit 20C.)

In other situations, it is safer to use **will**:

- Tom **will** probably arrive at about 8 o'clock.
- I think Ann **will** like the present we bought for her.

## EXERCISES

23.1 Complete the sentences using **will ('ll)** or **going to**.

- 1 A: Why are you turning on the television?  
B: ...I'm **going to** watch... the news. (I/watch)
- 2 A: Oh, I've just realised. I haven't got any money.  
B: Haven't you? Well, don't worry. .... you some. (I/lend)
- 3 A: I've got a headache.  
B: Have you? Wait there and ..... an aspirin for you. (I/get)
- 4 A: Why are you filling that bucket with water?  
B: ..... the car. (I/wash)
- 5 A: I've decided to repaint this room.  
B: Oh, have you? What colour ..... it? (you/paint)
- 6 A: Where are you going? Are you going shopping?  
B: Yes, ..... something for dinner. (I/buy)
- 7 A: I don't know how to use this camera.  
B: It's quite easy. .... you. (I/show)
- 8 A: What would you like to eat?  
B: ..... a sandwich, please. (I/have)
- 9 A: Did you post that letter for me?  
B: Oh, I'm sorry. I completely forgot. .... it now. (I/do)
- 10 A: The ceiling in this room doesn't look very safe, does it?  
B: No, it looks as if ..... down. (it/fall)
- 11 A: Has George decided what to do when he leaves school?  
B: Oh, yes. Everything is planned. .... a holiday for a few weeks and then ..... a computer programming course. (he/have, he/do)

23.2 Read the situations and complete the sentences using **will ('ll)** or **going to**.

- 1 The phone rings and you answer. Somebody wants to speak to Jim.  
CALLER: Hello. Can I speak to Jim, please?  
YOU: Just a moment. .... him. (I/get)
- 2 It's a nice day. You've decided to sit in the garden. Before going outside, you tell your friend.  
YOU: The weather's too nice to stay indoors. .... in the garden. (I/sit)  
FRIEND: That's a good idea. I think ..... you. (I/join)
- 3 Your friend is worried because she has lost an important letter.  
YOU: Don't worry about the letter. I'm sure ..... it. (you/find)  
FRIEND: I hope so.
- 4 There was a job advertised in the paper recently. At first you were interested but then you decided not to apply.  
FRIEND: Have you decided what to do about that job that was advertised?  
YOU: Yes, ..... for it. (I/not/apply)
- 5 You and a friend come home very late. Other people in the house are asleep. Your friend is noisy.  
YOU: Shhh! Don't make so much noise. .... everybody up. (you/wake)
- 6 John has to go to the airport to catch a plane tomorrow morning.  
JOHN: Ann, I need somebody to take me to the airport tomorrow morning.  
ANN: That's no problem. .... you. (I/take) What time is your flight?  
JOHN: 10.50.  
ANN: OK. .... at about 9 o'clock then. (we/leave)  
Later that day, Joe offers to take John to the airport.  
JOE: John, do you want me to take you to the airport?  
JOHN: No thanks, Joe. .... me. (Ann/take)