

## GRAMMAR GUIDE

### Be going to and will

#### 1a Look at the sentences.

- a I think global warming **will** get worse.
- b Greenpeace began in 1971. In 2021 it **will** celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- c What can I do to help? I know! I'**ll** keep a record of my carbon footprint.
- d Yesterday I decided what to do in the summer. I'**m going to** work for Greenpeace.
- e Look at the sky. It'**s going to** rain.

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#### 1b Match these explanations of the use of will and be going to with example sentences a–e in 1a.

We use **will** ...

- 1 for decisions that we take at the moment of speaking. ....c.....
- 2 to talk about an objective truth. ....
- 3 to make a general prediction. We often use **think, hope, expect** with this use. ....

We use **be going to** ...

- 4 to make predictions based on some sort of evidence. ....
- 5 to talk about plans or intentions. ....

## ▶ Grammar reference

### Be going to

#### Use

We use **be going to** to talk about plans and intentions for the future. We use it for things that we have already decided to do in the future.

*We've decided that we're going to join the WWF.*

We can also use **be going to** to make predictions about the future, particularly when we have evidence for the prediction.

*That car is going very fast. I think it's going to crash.*

### Will

#### Use

We use **will** and **won't** to make general predictions about the future. We often use **think, hope, expect, imagine**, etc. with **will** and **won't** to express our opinion about the future.

*I don't think he will win the election.*

We also use **will** and **won't** when we decide to do something at the moment of speaking, for example when we suddenly offer to do something for someone.

*A: It's hot in here.*

*B: I'll open the window.*

We use **will** and **won't** to talk about the future when we consider it to be an objective truth.

*It's my birthday next week. I'll be 17.*

We use **definitely, probably, perhaps, it's possible that** with **will** to say how certain we think something is. **Definitely** is when we are very certain, **probably** when we are quite certain, and **perhaps** and **it's possible that** when we think the situation is 50-50.

**Definitely** and **probably** come just after **will** but just before **won't**.

*It'll definitely rain. It definitely won't rain.*

**3 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs using *will* or *be going to*.**

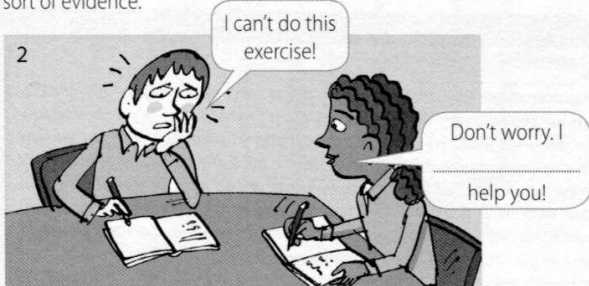
- 1 Experts expect that the ice cap ..... (disappear) one day.
- 2 It's only 10am but the sun is already strong. It ..... (be) a hot day.
- 3 A: What's the matter?  
B: I'm really hot.  
A: I ..... (open) the window.
- 4 Next week ..... (be) the anniversary of the world's worst oil spill.
- 5 My friends have decided they ..... (write) a letter about the environment to the local newspaper.
- 6 People think that global warming ..... (cause) lots of problems in the future.
- 7 A: Where are you going?  
B: To see a documentary about the environment.  
A: Wait! I ..... (come) with you.
- 8 A: Come to my house this evening.  
B: I can't. I ..... (go) to a meeting about making our school 'green'.

**Be going to and will**

1 Complete the sentences and rules with the correct form of *be going to* or *will*.



Rule: We use \_\_\_\_\_ to make predictions based on some sort of evidence.



Rule: We use \_\_\_\_\_ for decisions that we take at the moment of speaking.



Rule: We use \_\_\_\_\_ to talk about an objective truth.



Rule: We use \_\_\_\_\_ to talk about future plans or intentions.



Rule: We use \_\_\_\_\_ to make a general prediction, often after verbs like *think* or *hope*.

2 Choose the correct alternative.

- 1 A: The phone is ringing. B: I 'm going to / ll get it.
- 2 A: Do you want to come to a party on Saturday?  
B: I can't. My family and I are going to / will go to London for the weekend.
- 3 How old are you going to / will you be on your next birthday?
- 4 Look. He's putting his coat on. He 's going to / will go out.
- 5 A: It's cold in here. B: OK. I 'm going to / ll close the window.

**Will, may, might**

3 Match these symbols with the sentences.

- a = Yes, certain.
- b = Yes, more or less certain.
- c = Maybe yes, maybe no.
- d = No, more or less certain.
- e = No, certain.

- 1 Perhaps it'll rain. c
- 2 It definitely won't rain. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 It may rain. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 It's possible that it'll rain. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 It might rain. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 It'll probably rain. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 It probably won't rain. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 It'll definitely rain. \_\_\_\_\_

4 Put the words in order to make sentences. Then give an approximate percentage of certainty for each one.

- 1 team the win our Perhaps competition will. \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ %
- 2 tonight won't It probably cold be \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ %
- 3 will finish my homework soon I definitely. \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ %
- 4 out tomorrow She won't definitely go. \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ %
- 5 do the They week may exam next. \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ %
- 6 this My probably call brother will afternoon. \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ %

**Grammar extension**

5 Make predictions about your life when you are 35. Use the word given.

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ may
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ probably
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ perhaps
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ possible
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ definitely
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ won't
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ might

*Will, may, might*

**7a** Look at the sentences and give an approximate percentage of certainty for each expression in bold.

1 This **will probably** affect plants and animals.

*70-80% certain*  
.....

2 Global warming **will definitely** make a big difference.

.....

3 **Perhaps** some places **will** have more rain.

.....

4 **It's possible that** other places **will** become drier.

.....

5 Different parts of the world **might** have terrible floods or droughts. ....

6 The temperature **may** go up by 5°C in the next fifty years.

.....

7 The changes **probably won't** be immediate.

.....

8 Things **definitely won't** get better until we do something.

.....

**7b** Look at the position of the adverbs *definitely* and *probably* in sentences 1 and 2 and sentences 7 and 8. What do you notice?

## ▶ Grammar revision

### *Be going to, will*

#### 1 Correct the mistakes in these sentences.

- 1 Scientists think that they'll to find a solution for this problem.
- 2 What are your plans? What do you do tomorrow?
- 3 They say it's raining next week.
- 4 I can't meet you tomorrow because I'll do an exam.

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/ 4 points

### *Will, may, might*

#### 2 Complete the sentences with these words.

definitely   may   perhaps   probably   will   won't

- 1 My team will ..... win tonight. I'm totally sure.
- 2 Paula ..... go to see him next week but I don't really know.
- 3 ..... the problem will disappear but we aren't certain.
- 4 They ..... won't go out tonight because they have an exam tomorrow, but it's not impossible.
- 5 She definitely ..... run tomorrow because she's got a broken leg.
- 6 It's possible that I ..... see him tomorrow.

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/ 6 points

## WILL vs GOING TO

Complete the sentences with the correct form of **will** or **going to** and the verbs in brackets.

- 1.- When we get home, we \_\_\_\_\_ (have) dinner.
- 2.- I know they \_\_\_\_\_ (feel) very happy if they win the match.
- 3.- They've already decided on their next summer holiday. They \_\_\_\_\_ (do) a tour of Norway.
- 4.- She thinks that the Take That concert \_\_\_\_\_ (be) really exciting.
- 5.- "What are your plans for this evening?" I \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) my friends and then go to a birthday party.
- 6.- If you revise for the exam , I'm sure you \_\_\_\_\_ (get) a good result.
- 7.- The weather forecast is good for the next few days. It \_\_\_\_\_ (be) very sunny.
- 8.- I can't come on the march tomorrow. I \_\_\_\_\_ (look after) my cousins.
- 9.- In the future, I think humans \_\_\_\_\_ (wipe out) many different species.
- 10.-He is buying some butter and eggs because he \_\_\_\_\_ (make) a cake later.
- 11.- This homework is very easy. I know we \_\_\_\_\_ (do) it very quickly.
- 12.- In five years time, I \_\_\_\_\_ (be) at university.
- 13.- She wants to get her mum a birthday present. But she \_\_\_\_\_ (not buy) it today.
- 14.- Their suitcases are packed. They \_\_\_\_\_ (go) on holiday.
- 15.- If we go to Paris, we \_\_\_\_\_ (take) lots of pictures.
- 16.- My brother thinks it \_\_\_\_\_ (snow) tomorrow.
- 17.- It's very late! Hurry up or we \_\_\_\_\_ (be) late for work.
- 18.- Look at that boy at the top of that tree! He \_\_\_\_\_ (fall).
- 19.- When we go home, we \_\_\_\_\_ (watch) TV. We don't want to miss our favourite programme.
- 20.- I'm sure they \_\_\_\_\_ (lose) the match.
- 21.- It's very hot in here. I \_\_\_\_\_ (open) the window.
- 22.- It's a secret! OK I \_\_\_\_\_ (not tell) anyone.
- 23.- My cousin \_\_\_\_\_ (work) in the UK for a year.
- 24.- I \_\_\_\_\_ (love) you forever.
- 25.- I'm thirsty. I \_\_\_\_\_ (get) you a glass of water.

