

## (I'm) going to (do)

A

I **am going to do** something = I have already decided to do it, I intend to do it:

- 'Are you **going to eat** anything?' 'No, I'm not hungry.'
- A: I hear Sarah has won some money. What **is she going to do** with it?  
B: She's **going to buy** a new car.
- I'm just **going to make** a quick phone call. Can you wait for me?
- This cheese smells horrible. I'm **not going to eat** it.

B

I **am doing** and I **am going to do**

We use **I am doing** (*present continuous*) when we say what we have *arranged* to do – for example, arranged to meet somebody, arranged to go somewhere:

- What time **are you meeting** Ann this evening?
- I'm **leaving** tomorrow. I've got my plane ticket.


I **am going to do** something = I've decided to do it (but perhaps not *arranged* to do it):

- 'Your shoes are dirty.' 'Yes, I know. I'm **going to clean** them.' (= I've decided to clean them, but I haven't *arranged* to clean them)
- I've decided not to stay here any longer. Tomorrow I'm **going to look** for somewhere else to stay.

Often the difference is very small and either form is possible.

C

You can also say that 'something **is going to happen**' in the future. For example:



The man isn't looking where he is going.  
He **is going to walk** into the wall.

When we say that 'something **is going to happen**', the situation *now* makes this clear. The man is walking towards the wall now, so we can see that he **is going to walk** into it.

situation now → going to → future happening

Some more examples:

- Look at those black clouds! It's **going to rain**. (the clouds are there now)
- I feel terrible. I think I'm **going to be** sick. (I feel terrible now)
- The economic situation is bad now and things **are going to get** worse.

D

I **was going to** do something = I intended to do it, but didn't do it:

- We **were going to travel** by train, but then we decided to go by car instead.
- Peter **was going to do** the exam, but he changed his mind.
- I **was** just **going to cross** the road when somebody shouted 'Stop!'

You can say that 'something **was going to happen**' (but didn't happen):

- I thought it **was going to rain**, but it didn't.

## 20.1 Write a question with **going to** for each situation.

- Your friend has won some money. You ask:  
(what / do with it?) What are you going to do with it?
- Your friend is going to a party tonight. You ask:  
(what / wear?) \_\_\_\_\_
- Your friend has just bought a new table. You ask:  
(where / put it?) \_\_\_\_\_
- Your friend has decided to have a party. You ask:  
(who / invite?) \_\_\_\_\_

## 20.2 Read the situations and complete the dialogues. Use **going to**.

- You have decided to clean your room this morning.  
FRIEND: Are you going out this morning?  
YOU: No, I'm going to clean my room.
- You bought a sweater, but it doesn't fit you very well. You have decided to take it back to the shop.  
FRIEND: That sweater is too big for you.  
YOU: I know. \_\_\_\_\_
- You have been offered a job, but you have decided not to accept it.  
FRIEND: I hear you've been offered a job.  
YOU: That's right, but \_\_\_\_\_
- You have to phone Sarah. It's morning now, and you have decided to phone her tonight.  
FRIEND: Have you phoned Sarah yet?  
YOU: No, \_\_\_\_\_
- You are in a restaurant. The food is awful and you've decided to complain.  
FRIEND: This food is awful, isn't it?  
YOU: Yes, it's disgusting. \_\_\_\_\_

## 20.3 What is going to happen in these situations? Use the words in brackets.

- There are a lot of black clouds in the sky.  
(rain) It's going to rain.
- It is 8.30. Tom is leaving his house. He has to be at work at 8.45, but the journey takes 30 minutes.  
(late) He \_\_\_\_\_
- There is a hole in the bottom of the boat. A lot of water is coming in through the hole.  
(sink) The boat \_\_\_\_\_
- Lucy and Chris are driving. There is very little petrol left in the tank. The nearest petrol station is a long way away.  
(run out) They \_\_\_\_\_

## 20.4 Complete the sentences with **was/were going to** + the following verbs:

**buy   give up   phone   play   say   ~~travel~~**

- We were going to travel by train, but then we decided to go by car instead.
- I \_\_\_\_\_ some new clothes yesterday, but I was very busy and didn't have time to go to the shops.
- Oliver and I \_\_\_\_\_ tennis last week, but he had to cancel because he'd hurt his knee.
- I \_\_\_\_\_ Jane, but I decided to email her instead.
- A: When I last saw Tim, he \_\_\_\_\_ his job.  
B: That's right, but in the end he decided to stay where he was.
- I'm sorry I interrupted you. What \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ ?