

Talk About the Future

When we use *going* in a phrase to talk about the future, the form is composed of three elements:

The verb *to be* conjugated to match the subject

+

Going

+

The infinitive of the main verb

| Subject | + to be (conjugated) | + going | + infinitive |
|------------|----------------------|---------|--------------|
| She | is | going | to leave. |
| I | am | going | to stay. |

The use of *going* to refer to future events suggests a very strong association with the present.

The time is not important, it is later than now, but the attitude is that the event depends on something in the present situation that we know about.

Going is mainly used to refer to our plans and intentions or to make predictions based on present evidence.

In everyday speech, *going to* is often shortened to “*gonna*”, especially in American English, but it is never written that way.

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USING "GOING" FOR PLANS AND INTENTIONS

EXAMPLES

- Is Freddy going to buy a new car soon?
- Are John and Pam going to visit Milan when they are in Italy?
- I think Nigel and Mary are going to have a party next week.
- We are going to have dinner together tomorrow.
- Aren't you going to stay at the library until your report is finished?