



Learn English Through Stories

T Series

Upper - Intermediate

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Future Tenses 1 by K S Sandhu

The Weekend Getaway

Anna sat in the café with her friends Sarah and Mike, her eyes shining with excitement. “We’re going to have the best weekend ever in the Lake District!” she said. “I’ve been anticipating this trip for weeks. Fresh air, long walks – it will be perfect.”

Sarah looked enthusiastic. “I’m booking the train tickets right now. We’re leaving at eight on Saturday morning, and I’m packing my new hiking boots tonight. The itinerary is all ready!”

Mike, however, seemed reluctant. He had a dilemma because his boss wanted him to finish a big report. “I’m going to leave the office early on Friday,” he explained, “but I’m not sure. Shall we check the weather forecast first?”

Anna smiled confidently. “The forecast says it will be sunny and warm all weekend. It will be an exhilarating adventure, I promise. No rain, no problems.”

They spent the evening making a meticulous itinerary together. “I’m taking the picnic basket,” Sarah announced. “And I’m going to prepare sandwiches and fruit for the journey.” Mike nodded. “I’m bringing my camera. I anticipate some fantastic photos on the hills.”

Suddenly, an unforeseen problem appeared. Anna’s phone rang – it was her landlord. The building needed urgent repairs, and she had to stay until Saturday afternoon. “Oh no,” she sighed. “I’m afraid I’m going to miss the morning train.”

Mike stayed calm and resilient. “Don’t worry. I’m going to drive us instead. The car is ready, and we can leave later.” Sarah laughed. “That’s spontaneous thinking! Shall we pack extra snacks for the road?”

“Yes!” Anna replied. “I’ll call the cabin owner now to confirm our arrival. We’re staying two nights, and I’m going to make sure we have a great time anyway.”

On Saturday afternoon they set off. The drive through the quintessential English countryside was beautiful – green hills, sparkling lakes, and quiet villages passed by the windows. “This is going to be serendipitous,” Mike said with a grin. “I can feel it already.”

As they climbed the first hill, Sarah pointed ahead. “Look! We’re reaching the viewpoint in ten minutes. The view will take your breath away.” But then dark clouds gathered quickly. “It looks like it will rain soon,” Anna warned.

Mike shrugged. “No problem. I’m going to set up the small tent if we need shelter. We’re prepared for anything.”

The rain came, but they found a dry spot under some trees and shared stories while they waited. Their resilient spirits turned the unforeseen weather into laughter and fun. By evening they reached the cosy cabin. Sarah offered, “I shall make us some hot tea.”

That night, sitting by the fire, Anna said happily, “This weekend has been more than we anticipated. I’m glad we didn’t cancel.” Mike raised his cup. “We’re going to plan another trip next month – same place, same friends.”

On Sunday they packed up, tired but smiling. The short escape reminded them that with flexible plans and good friends, every future adventure could become a wonderful memory.

Questions:

Question 1: Where are Anna, Sarah and Mike planning to go for the weekend?

Question 2: How are they originally planning to travel to the Lake District?

Question 3: What problem does Anna have on Friday evening?

Question 4: What does Mike offer to do when Anna misses the morning train?

Question 5: What does the weather forecast say about the weekend?

Question 6: Why does Mike say the weekend is going to be “serendipitous”?

Question 7: What happens when they are climbing the first hill?

Question 8: How do the friends react when it starts to rain?

Question 9: What does Sarah offer to make at the cabin in the evening?

Question 10: What do they decide to do at the end of the story?

Answers:

Answer 1: They are planning to go to the Lake District.

Answer 2: They are originally planning to travel by train (leaving at eight on Saturday morning).

Answer 3: Her landlord calls because the building needs urgent repairs, so she has to stay until Saturday afternoon.

Answer 4: Mike offers to drive them instead.

Answer 5: The forecast says it will be sunny and warm all weekend.

Answer 6: He feels it will be a lucky and pleasant surprise (because everything is working out nicely despite the change of plans).

Answer 7: Dark clouds gather and it starts to rain.

Answer 8: They stay resilient / positive. They find a dry spot under some trees, wait for the rain to pass, and turn it into laughter and fun.

Answer 9: Sarah offers to make hot tea.

Answer 10: They decide to plan another trip next month to the same place with the same friends.

41 going to, present continuous and will



1 be going to

We use *am/is/are + going to + the infinitive form of the verb*:

POSITIVE	<i>I am ('m) going to be late. He is ('s) going to come later. They are ('re) going to sell it.</i>
NEGATIVE	<i>I am not ('m not) going to be late. It is not (isn't) going to arrive. We are not (aren't) going to see them.</i>
QUESTIONS	<i>Are you going to be late? (No, I'm not.) Is she going to take the bus? (Yes, she is.) What are you going to do?</i>

NATURAL ENGLISH In informal conversation and in songs we often pronounce *going to* as 'gonna' /gənə/.

Pronunciation ▶ 1.20

Present continuous form ▶ Unit 28.1

2 Future plans and arrangements

We use *going to* or the present continuous to talk about future plans and arrangements:

<i>going to</i>	PRESENT CONTINUOUS
We intend to do something but we haven't made all the arrangements yet: <i>We're going to meet Joe's mother next week, but we haven't arranged a time yet. I'm going to be a doctor one day.</i>	We have already made arrangements to do something: <i>David sent me a text message. He's meeting us in front of the cinema at six o'clock. We're sitting in the front row. (We've already bought the tickets.)</i>
We plan to do something in the immediate future: <i>I'm going to make a sandwich – would you like one? I'm tired. I'm not going to stay any longer.</i>	To explain why we can't do something in the future: <i>'Can you come to lunch on Saturday?' 'No, I'm afraid I can't. I'm working on Saturday.'</i>

We usually use time expressions when we talk about plans with *going to* or the present continuous:

I'm going to see Manchester United on Saturday.

What are you doing this evening?

We don't use *will* to talk about personal arrangements:

✗ We will sit in the front row. ✓ We're sitting/going to sit in the front row.

FORMALITY CHECK In formal English we usually use *will*, not *going to*, for arrangements:
The government will meet to discuss the situation tomorrow.

3 will

We use *will (not)* + the infinitive form of a main verb:

POSITIVE	<i>I will ('ll) be late. He will ('ll) come later. They will ('ll) buy it.</i>
NEGATIVE	<i>I will not (won't) be late. It will not (won't) work. We will not (won't) take it.</i>
QUESTIONS	<i>Will you meet him? (No, I won't.) Will she see us? (Yes, she will.) What will you do?</i>

FORMALITY CHECK It is possible to use *shall* instead of *will*, but normally only after *I* and *we*. *Shall* is more formal than *will*. The contracted form is *'ll*, the same as we use for *will*. The negative form is *shall not* or *shan't*.

Pronunciation ► 1.21

4 Predictions

We use *going to* or *will* to talk about things we expect to happen:

<i>going to</i>	<i>will</i>
For predictions based on something we can see now, or that everybody knows: <i>We're going to get soaked!</i> (because it is raining now) <i>I'm going to be late for work.</i> (because my car has broken down)	For predictions based on our own personal opinion or knowledge: <i>The rain'll stop in a minute.</i> (I know it never rains for long here.) <i>In the future, people will live on other planets.</i> (This is my opinion.)

NATURAL ENGLISH We often use *do you think* to ask what people expect to happen:
'Do you think he'll marry her? I think he will.' *Who do you think's going to win the election?*
To make a negative prediction with *think* we usually make *think* negative:
I don't think he'll marry her.

5 probably, certainly/definitely

We often use *will* to talk about events that are certain to happen:

There will be a full moon tomorrow. New Year's Day will fall on a Tuesday next year.

We can make our predictions more or less certain by using the adverbs *probably*, *certainly* and *definitely*. Note the word order of the adverbs with a negative verb:

I'll definitely/certainly pass the test. (I'm sure this will happen.)

We definitely won't go to Portugal. (I'm sure this will not happen.)

We're probably going to move to Spain next year. (I think this will happen, but I'm not sure.)

6 Immediate decisions

We use *will* when we decide to do something at the same time as speaking – something that we didn't plan:

'The manager isn't here right now. Can I take a message?' 'No thanks. I'll call back later.'

'Do you want something to drink?' 'No, I'm tired. I think I'll go to bed now.'

7 Offers, promises and warnings

We can use *will* to make offers, promises and warnings:

Don't worry about a taxi. We'll take you to the hospital. (offer)

I'll work harder next year, I promise. I will never do that again. (promise)

I will not allow bad behaviour in my house. (warning)

Don't lift that – you'll hurt yourself! (warning)

We can also use *shall* (but not *will*) for suggestions:

It's hot in here. Shall I open a window? X Will I open a window?

Shall we get the earlier train?

More on *will* ► Unit 53.1/3

Practice

1 Write the words and phrases in the correct order.

- 0 test Clare the isn't take to going *Clare isn't going to take the test.*
- 1 won't this weekend rain probably it
- 2 a test tomorrow going have we to are ?
- 3 me meeting at the station she is ?
- 4 aren't to come to my party they going
- 5 phone I for a taxi shall ?
- 6 in a hotel I'm this time staying not
- 7 be they're late do you think to going ?
- 8 never I'll again there go

2 Match sentences 1 and 2 with A and B in each pair.

- 0 1 It's going to be cold tonight. — A It's always cold at night at this time of year.
- 2 It'll be cold tonight. — B I can feel a cold breeze coming from the north.
- 1 1 He'll probably win. A The race is almost over and he's at the front.
- 2 He's going to win. B He's won lots of races before.
- 2 1 I'm going to do a course at college. A I've been looking at their websites.
- 2 I'm doing a course at college. B I enrolled yesterday.
- 3 1 We'll borrow Sally's tent. A I'll phone and ask her if it's OK.
- 2 We're borrowing Sally's tent. B She's agreed to lend it to us.
- 4 1 I'm taking the children to the park. A So I'm afraid I can't stay for lunch.
- 2 I'm going to take the children to the park. B Would you like to join me?
- 5 1 I'm leaving at ten. A I'd like to have an early night.
- 2 I'm going to leave at ten. B I've arranged a taxi for that time.
- 6 1 He's going to be late. A I know him. He's always late.
- 2 He'll be late. B There's a traffic jam on the motorway.

3 Complete the sentences with a form of will or going to.



'I don't think we're...
going to... get a seat.'



'Don't sit so close to the
TV - you
get a headache.'



'That ball
land in the water!'



'Look at the cat. She
can't get down.'
'Oh dear. I
get a ladder.'



'I've used this machine
before. Don't worry, the
photos
come out in a minute.'



'I call
for an ambulance.'

4

GRAMMAR IN USE Read the notes and choose the correct words in *italics* in the conversation. **3.17** Listen and check.

- VANESSA I hear you've booked your flights to Bangkok.
When (0) *are you leaving* / *will you leave*?
- PETER On Monday. We're (1) *getting* / *going to get* the overnight flight.
- VANESSA (2) *Are you staying* / *Will you stay* long?
- PETER A couple of weeks. We (3) *will fly* / *'re flying* back on the 26th.
- VANESSA What about accommodation?
- PETER We've booked a hotel for the first two nights. (4) *We're staying* / *We'll stay* at the Asia Hotel on Sukhumvit Road.
- VANESSA That sounds nice. But I've heard Thailand can be terribly hot in February.
- PETER No, I've been before, so I know it (5) *won't* / *isn't going to* be too hot then.
- VANESSA What are your plans while you're in the city?
- PETER Do you remember John? (6) *We're having* / *We'll have* lunch with him on the 14th.
- VANESSA Give him my best wishes when you see him. What about after that?
- PETER I'm not sure. (7) *We will* / *We're going to* look around and see what's available. We'd like to go to the beach.
- VANESSA How are you going to get there?
- PETER We'll (8) *probably* / *certainly* get the bus. I'm not sure really.
- VANESSA (9) *Shall* / *Will* I look on the Internet? There might be a timetable or something.
- PETER That's a good idea.
- VANESSA OK. (10) *I'm getting* / *I'll get* my computer.

Feb 12th London - Bangkok.
Flight 319
Feb 13th / 14th booked 2 nights,
Asia Hotel
Feb 14th 12.30 - meet John for
lunch
Feb 15th go to beach???
Feb 26th booked flight Bangkok -
London. Leave Bangkok 11.30 p.m.

5

GRAMMAR IN USE Complete the conversations. Write one word (or a short form) in each gap. **3.18** Listen and check.

- 0 A How *are*..... you getting to the station tomorrow?
B I don't know. I'll *probably*..... order a taxi. Actually, I *'ll*..... phone them now and see if I can book one.
- 1 A This bag's too heavy. I'm to hurt my back!
B I help you carry it?
A Thanks.
- 2 A Do you Davina will be here on time?
B Yes, I'm sure she She's never late.
- 3 A Have the tickets arrived?
B Yes. We sitting in row E. That's quite near the front.
A Excellent. I call Pedro and tell him.
- 4 A I going to do the shopping later. Is there anything you want?
B Yes. Quite a few things. I make a list?
- 5 A Have you asked Brian to the concert? I've got an extra ticket for him.
B Yes, but I think he'll come. He hates classical music.
A How annoying. Well, I waste money on an extra ticket again!

Answers

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- 1** 1 It probably won't rain this weekend.
2 Are we going to have a test tomorrow?
3 Is she meeting me at the station?
4 They aren't going to come to my party.
5 Shall I phone for a taxi?
6 I'm not staying in a hotel this time.
7 Do you think they're going to be late?
8 I'll never go there again.
- 2** 1 1B 2A 2 1A 2B 3 1A 2B 4 1A 2B
5 1B 2A 6 1B 2A
- 3** 1 'll 2 's going to 3 'll 4 'll/will 5 'll
- 4** 1 getting 2 Are you staying 3 're flying
4 We're staying 5 won't 6 We're having
7 We're going to 8 probably 9 Shall
10 I'll get
- 5** 1 going, Shall/Can 2 think, will 3 (We)'re,
(I)'ll 4 (I)'m, Shall 5 don't, won't