

# DECISIONS, PLANS, PREDICTIONS

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Cambridge English Exam?

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## B2 FIRST

### PRESENT CONTINUOUS

Arrangements - Definite plans for the future

We can use the present continuous to talk about the future when we have already arranged to do something. It's definite, not just an idea. Perhaps we have put the arrangement in our diaries.

'Are you free at 2 o'clock on Tuesday?'  
'No, I'm **meeting** a client.'  
I'm **spending** the day on the beach tomorrow with Mike.  
Our grandparents **are visiting** us this Christmas.

### GOING TO

Plans (not arranged yet)

Predictions based on present, physical evidence - Decisions made before speaking

We can use be going to to talk about something that we have decided to do in the future, but not arranged yet. It's possible that the plan might change.

When I finish at college, I'm **going to** spend a year travelling.  
We're **going to** look for a nice restaurant with a view of the sea.

We also use be going to for something that we expect to happen because we can see from the present situation that it is very likely. We can't use the present continuous in this way.

It's so cold. I'm sure it's **going to** snow soon.  
Oh no! That car's **going to** hit the tree.  
You're not **going to** do all this in an hour. There's just too much to do.

We use be going to when we have made a decision before speaking.

I know what I want!  
I am **going to** have a tea

### WILL

Decisions made at the moment of speaking, promises, voluntary offers, predictions

We use will when we make a decision about the future at the moment of speaking.

What do I want to drink?  
I think I **will** have a coffee

We can use will to make predictions about the future, which are only a guesses or an opinions of ours.

I **will** be a teacher.  
You **won't** have any problems.