



- A: Hello! I didn't know you have two children. How old is your youngest child?  
 B: She's two. She'll be three on Sunday. We're going to have a party. There'll be fun and games for the kids, and food and drink for the adults.  
 A: Where are you having it?  
 B: At the café in the park. There's lots of space, so we're going to have some music and dancing as well.  
 A: That sounds like it'll be great fun!  
 B: Would you like to come? The party starts at five.  
 A: Thanks but I'm going to New York that day for work. Anyway, I hope you all have fun.  
 B: Thanks. We will. And give me a call when you get back from New York.  
 A: Yes, I will!

## Presentation

Use different forms to talk about the future.

### Present continuous

Use the present continuous to talk about a fixed arrangement to do something at a specified time in the future. It often involves other people.

*We're **having** the party at the café in the park.*

We also use present continuous to ask about plans.

*Where **are** you **having** the party?*

### going to

Use *going to* for a plan or intention decided before the moment of speaking.

*We're **going to have** some music and dancing.*  
 (=We decided this a few days ago.)

You can say *going to go* but we normally say *going*:

*I'm going to go to New York. = I'm **going to** New York.*

### Present continuous or going to?

You can use either form to talk about plans and arrangements in the future, but the present continuous usually specifies the time:

*We're **having** a party on Sunday.*

*We're **going to have** a party.*

When you use the present continuous to refer to the future, use a future time expression. Otherwise the present continuous refers to the present.

*We're **having** a party.* (=now, at the time of speaking)

*We're **having** a party **on Sunday**.* (= in the future)

### will / won't

Use *will* + infinitive without *to* for a decision made at the time of speaking.

*A: Your friend left a message to call her back.*

*B: Right. I'll **call** her now.*

### going to or will?

You can use *going to* and *will* to talk about making a decision but there is a difference:

*She left a message so I'm **going to** call her back.*  
 (= decision made before speaking)

*I didn't know she'd called. I'll **call** her back now.*  
 (=decision made at the time of speaking)

### Simple present

Use the simple present for an event that is scheduled.

*The party **starts** at five. The flight **leaves** in the morning.*

## Exercises

### 1 Match 1–4 with a–d.

- |               |                           |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| 1 We're going | a arrives at ten.         |
| 2 We're       | b to move next year.      |
| 3 The truck   | c moving next week.       |
| 4 I'll        | d meet you at your house. |






### 2 Choose the correct forms.

- 1 *Are they ever going to finish / Are they ever finishing* building the new road?
- 2 The schedule for the trains from Scotland says your train *arrives / is going to arrive* at noon.
- 3 A: Has Dorothy sent us an email with the directions to her house?  
B: I don't know. *I check / 'll check* my inbox.
- 4 You *'ll join / 're going to join* the army! When did you make that decision?
- 5 What time *do / are* your parents normally *get / getting* home from work?
- 6 Sandy and Michelle *come / are coming* on vacation with us. Is that OK?

### 3 Check (✓) the sentences where you can use the present continuous without changing the future meaning.

- 1 We're going to speak to everyone in about an hour. ✓
- 2 I'm going to ask him to call you back. ✗
- 3 Lucinda isn't going to arrive until three.
- 4 Is she going to explain how to answer these questions?
- 5 I'm going to clean my room. I promise I will.
- 6 The children are going to start school at the end of August.
- 7 Everyone is going to meet in the town square at midnight.
- 8 They're going to rebuild that old house.

### 4 Complete the emails with the *will* or *going to* form of the verbs in parentheses.

 New  Reply  Forward  Print  Delete

Hi Mariana,  
I have a conference in Brazil next month and I <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (stay) in Rio for three days so we can meet!  
Raul

Hi Raul,  
Great! The problem is I've already planned my vacation for next month—I <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (travel) around Argentina with Lizzie and we <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (not return) until the 18th. Is that too late? I could change our flights I suppose.  
M.

Don't worry. I <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (ask) my boss about extending the trip by a couple of days. It might be possible.  
Raul

OK. I <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (not change) my flights for now. But let me know if it isn't possible for you.  
M.