

## FUTURE TENSE

To express future actions, future ideas, or future activities we use “going to” as the most common structure to describe the future.

*Examples:*

I am going to write a letter to my girlfriend.

You are going to do the dishes tonight.

She is going to visit her mother next week.

He is going to travel all over the world.

It is going to rain tonight.

We are going to go to the soccer game next Friday. You are going to study for the next test.

They are going to work on the project all day.

The structure is as follows:

TO BE	GOING TO	VERB IN INFINITIVE Form	COMPLEMENTIZER	EXPRESSION OF FUTURE TIME
I am	going to	Read	the newspaper	tonight.
You are	going to	Study	for	tomorrow's exam.
He is	going to	Play	soccer	next week.
She is	going to	Call	me	tonight.
It is	going to	Rain	hard	tonight.
We are	going to	Travel	to Europe	next year.
You are	going to	Learn	English	very soon.
They are	going to	Go	to the beach	next Saturday.

Note: It is not always necessary to use an expression of future time because:

1. The listener knows that by using “going to” the speaker is referring to a time in the future that may already be known to the listener and
2. The exact future time is not necessary to be known by the listener.

*Examples:*

She is going to go to the dance. (The time of the dance is already known by the listener).

We are going to learn English. (The exact time doesn't matter; the listener knows the action will take place sometime in the future).

They are going to paint their house. When? It doesn't matter because the action will take place sometime in the future).

He is going to watch the movie. (The time of the movie is already known by the listener because of the word “the”).

Note: All of the forms “to be” are usually contracted:

*Examples:*

I am	<b>I'm</b>	I'm going to eat.
You are	<b>You're</b>	You're going to eat.
She is	<b>She's</b>	she's going to swim.
He is	<b>He's</b>	He's going to play soccer.
It is	<b>It's</b>	It's going to win the race.
We are	<b>We're</b>	We're going to watch TV.
You are	<b>You're</b>	You're going to cook dinner.
They are	<b>They're</b>	They're going to the movies.

The most common question to ask when we want to know what someone else is intending on doing in the future is:

What are you going to do + any expression of future time.

*Examples:*

What are you going to do tomorrow?  
 What are you going to do next week?  
 What are you going to do next month?  
 What are you going to do next year?  
 What are you going to do after class?

Note: It is not always necessary to use future expressions in the answer because the listener knows the context of the conversation.

*Examples:*

What are you going to do next Friday?  
 I'm going to go dancing.

What is the teacher going to do after class?  
 He's going to drink some beer with his friends.

What are they going to do tomorrow?  
 They're going to visit their relatives.

It is also possible to use information questions (WH questions) when asking about the future.

*Examples:*

You are going to study for the exam next week.  
 (Who)---Who is going to study for the exam next week?  
 (What)---What are you going to do next week?  
 (When)--When are you going to study for the exam?



My parents are going to travel to Europe next summer with their friends.

(Who)----Who is going to travel to Europe with their friends next summer?

(Whose)--Whose friends are my parents going to travel to Europe with next summer?

(What)----What are they going to do with their friends next summer?

Note: In informal English “**going to**” becomes “**gonna**” especially when the speaker is speaking fast.

*Examples:*

What are you gonna do next weekend? = (What are you going to do next weekend?)

I’m gonna go to a party. = (I’m going to a party.)

What are you gonna do tomorrow? = (What are you going to do tomorrow?)

I’m gonna visit my girlfriend. = (I’m going to visit my girlfriend).

Note: It is also possible to express future ideas using the “**ing**” form of the verb, but in this situation it is **NECESSARY** to use an expression of future time otherwise the sentence will be in the present progressive form.

*Examples:*

1. She’s singing tonight.
2. She’s singing. (now)
3. They’re playing football tomorrow.
4. They’re playing football. (now)
5. I’m visiting my sister next week.
6. I’m visiting my sister. (at this moment)

Notice that in statements one, three, and five the future expression of time tells the listener when the event will take place; tonight, tomorrow, and next week. In statements two, four, and six the statements are all in the present progressive; “She’s singing” meaning right now. “They’re playing football” meaning now. “I’m visiting my sister” this moment.

Remember: If the expression of future time is stated in a question it is **NOT NECESSARY** for the answer to include an expression of future time:

*Examples:*

**Question:** What are you going to do next summer?

**Answer:** I’m going to travel to Ecuador.

**Question:** What is she going to do tomorrow?

**Answer:** She’s studying for the exam.

**Question:** What are they going to do next week?

**Answer:** They’re painting their house.



Complete the following sentences with “**going to**” or by putting the verb in the “ing” form according to the information given in the sentences.

Example:

Gabriela is **singing** (sing) tomorrow night.

Gabriela is **going to** sing tomorrow night.

1. My father is \_\_\_\_\_ to come tomorrow.
2. Maria is \_\_\_\_\_ to my house after work. (come)
3. I'm \_\_\_\_\_ to go to the movies Saturday night.
4. I'm \_\_\_\_\_ to the movies Saturday night. (go)
5. Christina is \_\_\_\_\_ to travel to Mexico next summer.
6. Christina is \_\_\_\_\_ to Mexico next summer. (travel)
7. They are \_\_\_\_\_ to study for next week's exam tonight.
8. They are \_\_\_\_\_ for next week's exam. (study)
9. The children are \_\_\_\_\_ to play in the park tomorrow.
10. My mother is \_\_\_\_\_ in San Diego next month. (work)
11. The President is \_\_\_\_\_ to visit France next week.
12. My girlfriend is \_\_\_\_\_ dinner tonight. (cook)
13. My brother is \_\_\_\_\_ in the yard with his friends. (play)
14. We are \_\_\_\_\_ to have a party tomorrow night.
15. She's \_\_\_\_\_ to see her boyfriend in New York next week.
16. I'm \_\_\_\_\_ my girlfriend flowers for her birthday. (buy)
17. The dog is \_\_\_\_\_ to jump over the fence.
18. The President is \_\_\_\_\_ to address the nation.
19. I'm \_\_\_\_\_ my clothes after I finish cleaning my apartment. (wash)
20. She is \_\_\_\_\_ on a date on Saturday night. (go out)



21. My friend Peter is \_\_\_\_\_ a store in downtown Brooklyn. (run)
22. Mark is training hard because he is \_\_\_\_\_ run the New York Marathon next year.
23. I'm \_\_\_\_\_ an interesting book about life in the wild. (read)
24. I'm \_\_\_\_\_ start my new business soon.
25. The president of the company is \_\_\_\_\_ present the earning reports tonight.
26. She is \_\_\_\_\_ buy milk when she goes food shopping.
27. My father and I are \_\_\_\_\_ take a trip across the country.
28. My brother is \_\_\_\_\_ two classes in this semester. (take)
29. That guy is \_\_\_\_\_ a hot dog. (eat)
30. Are you \_\_\_\_\_ pick up the phone or not?
31. Are you \_\_\_\_\_ a letter to your parents? (write)
32. I am \_\_\_\_\_ tired. I should go to bed now. (get)
33. We are \_\_\_\_\_ rent a car when we get to San Francisco.
34. Wait a minute! Is he still \_\_\_\_\_ on the phone? (talk)
35. My professor is \_\_\_\_\_ publish his new book soon.
36. What are you \_\_\_\_\_ at? (look)
37. When are you \_\_\_\_\_ to visit us? (come)
38. When is he \_\_\_\_\_ pay back the money we let him?
39. Are you \_\_\_\_\_ or are you taking the train? (drive)
40. Why are you \_\_\_\_\_ sell your house?
41. We are \_\_\_\_\_ study hard for the final exam.

42. How are you \_\_\_\_\_ pay for that expensive house? You don't have a job!
43. When are you \_\_\_\_\_ to see the doctor again?
44. I am \_\_\_\_\_ money to buy a house in Florida. (save)
45. Why are you \_\_\_\_\_ this? It makes no sense. (do)
46. Are you \_\_\_\_\_ to the party with us or not? (come)
47. Are you \_\_\_\_\_ me? This is totally wrong. (kid)
48. My parents are \_\_\_\_\_ go to Paris for their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
49. She is \_\_\_\_\_ to go back to school next semester. (plan)
50. After I finish this exercise, I am \_\_\_\_\_ do it again.