

Be going to – Simple Future in English

Simple future, or the **future tense with *going to***, is a tense in English grammar used to express an intention or plan that has already been decided or a logical prediction for the future.

Construction and Conjugation

Rule 1: You can form the future tense with *going to* with **be + going to + infinitive**.

Example

Explanation

I **am going to meet** my friend at a coffee shop.

am is a form of the verb *be*, followed by *going to* and the infinitive form of the verb *meet*.

Rule 2: To conjugate the English future tense with *going to*, you should follow the rule **be + going to + infinitive** and adjust it to the person. Here is a table illustrating *positive*, *negative*, and *interrogative* conjugations for the simple future with *going to*:

Person	Positive	Negative	Question
I	I am going to sing.	I am not going to sing.	Am I going to sing?
you/we/they	You are going to sing.	We are not going to sing.	Are they going to sing?
he/she/it	He is going to sing.	She is not going to sing.	Is it going to sing?

Usage

Rule 3: You can use the future tense with *going to* when you have already decided on plans and intentions for the future.

Example

Explanation

I **am going to visit** a museum next Friday.

You can use the *simple future tense* when you are 100% sure about your decision - for example, you have already bought the tickets.

Rule 4: You can use the future tense with *going to* for future predictions that are based on present evidence.

Example

Explanation

Storm clouds are gathering, it **is going to rain**. You **are going to take** your umbrella when leaving home.

Based on the storm clouds in the sky, it is possible to predict that it will rain in nearest future. As such, you will need an umbrella when leaving home.

Contractions

Depending on the context, you may use contractions - short forms - for the future tense with *going to*.

Rule 5: Contractions are frequently used in spoken and informal written English where **going to** is contracted to **gonna**. Never use contractions in formal written English.

Example

Explanation

I'm gonna meet my friend at a coffee shop.

I'm is short for *I am*, and *gonna* is a contraction of *going to*.

Here are the contractions in the future with *going to*:

Long form	Contraction	Example
am / am not	'm / 'm not	I'm / I'm not
are / are not	're / 're not (aren't)	you're / you're not (you aren't)
is / is not	's / 's not (isn't)	she's / she's not (she isn't)