



Future Tense – “Will” vs. “Going to”



Going to:

Used to indicate the future.

1. When we have already decided or intended to do something in the future.
 - They're **going to** perform at the concert.
 - I'm **going to** sing a song by The Beatles.
2. When there are signs something is likely to happen.
 - Ali is **going to** play guitar tomorrow.
 - I don't think I am **going to** dance at the recital.
3. When something is about to happen:
 - Oh no! The stage is **going to** collapse.

Will:

Used to indicate something about the future.

1. To express an instant decision
 - I **will** save you a spot at the rehearsal.
 - I think I **will** play Peter Pan.
2. When we think or believe something about the future.
 - The girls from SK Puteri **will** not dance at the competition this year.
 - The band **will** organise a charity concert this weekend.

Note: You can use both “will” and “going to” to make future predictions.

3. To make an offer, a promise or a threat.
 - I **will** give you RM10 to sing in front of the crowd right now.
 - I promise I **will** memorise my line next time.
 - Remy **will** teach me how to play the piano.

4. You use “**won’t**” when someone refuses to do something.

- The teacher asked him to play the gong but he **won’t** do it.
- The rehearsal is postponed to another day because the main actor **won’t** come.
- The singer **won’t** sing unless he has a backup dancer.

Future Predictions

Both “**will**” and “**going to**” can be used to make future predictions without having any difference in meaning.

Examples:

- The director says he **will** prepare the costumes tomorrow. (Correct)
- The director says he is **going to** prepare the costumes tomorrow. (Correct)

Compare “**will**” vs. “**going to**”

Question : “Are you busy tomorrow?”

Answer : “Yes, I’m **going to** go to the theatre.”

- I use **going to** because it is a plan I made earlier (before I was asked the question). - In this case, we cannot use **will**.

If I haven’t made plans to go to theatre, then I can say: “I **will** probably go to a concert” or “I’m probably **going to** a concert.”

Both “**will**” and “**going to**” are possible in this situation because we are predicting what will happen since we haven’t made any plans.