

I will and I'm going to

A

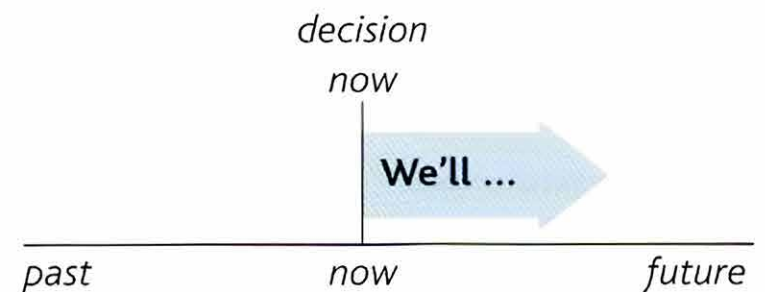
Future actions

Study the difference between **will** and **(be) going to**:

Sarah is talking to Helen:



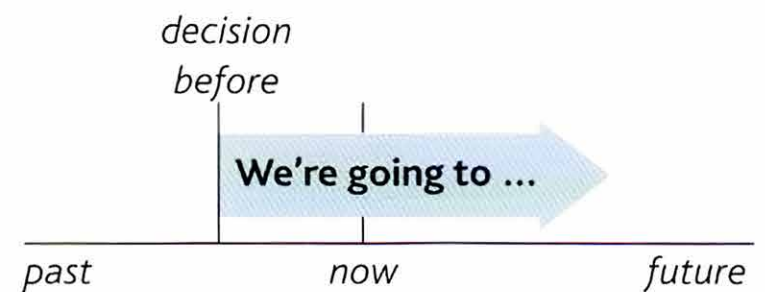
will ('ll): We use **will** to announce a new decision. The party is a new idea.



Later that day, Helen meets Dan:



(be) going to: We use **(be) going to** when we have *already decided* to do something. Helen had already decided to invite lots of people *before* she spoke to Dan.



Compare:

- 'Gary phoned while you were out.' 'OK. I'll call him back.'
- 'Gary **phoned** while you were out.' 'Yes, I know. I'm going to call him back.'
- 'Anna is in hospital.' 'Oh really? I didn't know. I'll go and visit her.'
- 'Anna is in hospital.' 'Yes, I know. I'm going to visit her this evening.'

B

Future happenings and situations (predicting the future)

We use both **will** and **going to** to predict future happenings and situations. So you can say:

- I think **the weather will be** nice later. *or*
I think **the weather is going to be** nice later.
- Those shoes are well-made. **They'll last** a long time. *or*
Those shoes are well-made. **They're going to last** a long time.

When we say something **is going to** happen, we know this from the situation *now*. What is happening *now* shows that something **is going to** happen in the future. For example:

- Look at those black clouds. **It's going to rain.** (*not* It will rain)
(We can see that it **is going to rain** from the clouds that are in the sky *now*.)
- I feel terrible. I think **I'm going to be** sick. (*not* I think I'll be sick)
(I think **I'm going to be** sick because I feel terrible *now*.)

Do not use **will** in this type of situation.