

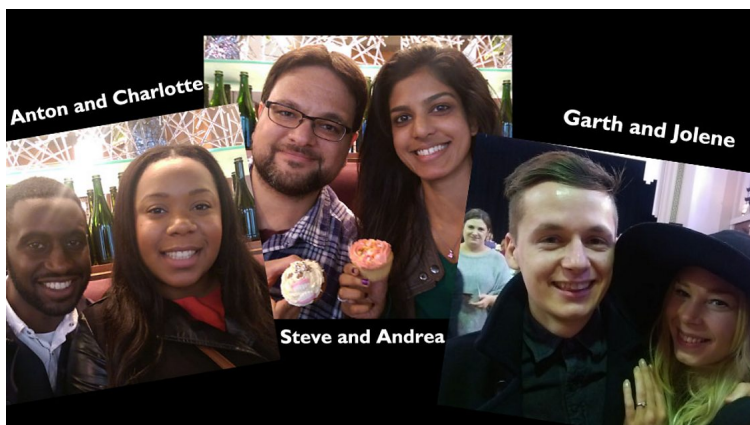
## Session 2

This time we look at the differences between **present continuous** and **going to**. We do an activity to help us learn the rules, and then practise by listening to a conversation between a married couple: Marco and Flavia. After that we have 6 Minute Grammar!

## Activity 1

### The rules

#### Planning for the future



In Session 1 we met three couples who were planning their weddings.

One of the couples was Steve and Andrea. They said this about their wedding:

We're **getting married** in July next year.

It's **going to be** a big mix of food from all over the world.

And here are a few similar examples:

We're also **going to have** some traditional English food, like bacon sandwiches and other things.

We're **having** bacon sandwiches and onion soup at our wedding.

We're **going to have** a church wedding in the morning, but we're not sure where.

We're **having** a church wedding. We booked the church last week.

By looking at these examples, can you work out the rules about when to use **going to** and when to use the **present continuous**?

### Summary: Going to and present continuous

#### Use going to

To talk about something that we have decided to do in the future, but not arranged yet. It's possible that the plan might change.

When I finish at college, I'm **going to spend** a year travelling.

#### Use the present continuous

To talk about the future when we have already arranged to do something. It's definite, not just an idea. Perhaps we have put the arrangement in our diaries.

'Are you free at 2 o'clock on Tuesday?'

'No, I'm **meeting** a client.'

Actually, the uses of the present continuous and going to are very similar and you can often use either of them, with little or no change in meaning.

I'm going to travel around Asia next year.

I'm travelling around Asia next year.

For more grammar help, visit the Grammar Reference.

### Next

Next it's time to meet a young couple called Marco and Flavia and test how much of the new language you can use.

