**Be going to, Present Continuous, Present Simple**

**Present Continuous or be going to?**

We often use the Present Continuous to talk about the near future rather than the distant future:

*I****’m taking*** *the kids to the cinema this evening.*

*I****’m getting up*** *at 6.30 tomorrow.*

* We can use *be going to* or the Present Continuous for more distant events: *We****’re going to sail****/****'re sailing*** *round the world next year.*
* To talk about plans, we can use the Present Continuous or *be going to* in the same future situations, sometimes with a slight change of emphasis (to ask about plans or arrangements we use the Future Continuous):

*I****’m going to see*** *my psychiatrist tomorrow.* (= I intend to see my psychiatristtomorrow).

*I****’m seeing*** *my psychiatrist tomorrow.* (= I have already arranged to see mypsychiatrist tomorrow)

* If there is no plan or arrangement, we can only use *be going to.* This use is prediction, especially when there is evidence. The Present Continuous is not possible:

*Those dark clouds mean we* ***are going to have*** *a storm.*

*You****’re going to get*** *a headache if you don*’*t turn the volume down.*

**Present Continuous or Present Simple?**

In future use, the Present Simple always suggests a fixed timetable. The Present Continuous can suggest the possibility of change:

*The sun* ***rises*** *at six tomorrow.*

*I****’m seeing*** *him at six o’clock.* (= my plan)

*I* ***see*** *him at six o’clock.* (= my fixed schedule)

* We often use the Present Continuous for personal arrangements, and the Present

Simple for when an official or a committee makes the arrangements: *I****’m seeing*** *Mikis at the weekend.* (= my arrangement)

*I* ***leave*** *for London tomorrow.* (= my boss says so)

**Be going to or will?**

We use ***be going to*** to talk about something we know will happen because of information in the present:

*The sky’s grey* – *I think it****’s going to rain****.*

*It’s eight o’clock – you****’re going to be*** *late again.*

* We use ***will*** to talk about something we believe will happen: *Don’t carry that heavy box – you* ***will hurt*** *your back.*

 We also use ***will*** to indicate a sudden decision:

*Leave the washing up – I****’ll do*** *it later.*

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We can use ***going to*** if we decided earlier:

1. *told you that I****’m going to wash up****.*
   1. ***Complete these sentences using be going to, will, the Present Continuous or the Present Simple. Use the verbs in brackets.***
      * 1. Look, that car over there ………… (**crash**)!
      1. I can’t come tonight because I ………… (**stay in**) to watch TV.
      2. The Prime Minister ………… (**travel**) to Brussels tomorrow.
      3. The match ………… (**start**) at 3 pm as always.
      4. Don’t worry about the car; I ………… (**phone**) for a taxi.
      5. Nina often ………… (**visit**) her parents.
      6. I ………… (**be**) rich one day!
      7. According to my diary, we ………… (**meet**) at 3 pm tomorrow.
      8. We ………… (**win**) the European Cup next year.
      9. The National Theatre ………… (celebrate) its thirtieth anniversary soon.

***2. Put the verb in brackets into the most suitable form of the future.***

1. 'What …………you ………… this evening?' (do) 'Nothing'.
2. 'Well, ………… we ………… to that new pizzeria?' (go)
3. In 2024 the Olympic Games ………… in Athens, (take place)
4. Which showing do you want to go to? The film ………… at nine and eleven.

(start)

1. I ………… work at five – so shall we meet at a quarter past? (finish)
2. Seven o’clock isn’t possible as I ………… something else then. (do)
3. This lesson is boring. When ………… it ………… to …………? (finish)

***3. Underline the most suitable form of the future in the following text*.**

**AQUARIUS**

All Aquarians this month (1) *get off/are getting off* to a good start with some good news on the home front. The news (2) *is helping/will help* to relax recent tensions and give you the chance to make fresh start. There (3) *shall/will* be lots of new things on other fronts this month. It really (4) *is going to be/is being* a time of great opportunity. A special person (5) *shall come/is coming* into your life soon and you mustn’t think this (6) *is going to be/is being* just another friendship. At work, you *are needing/will need* to rise to new challenges that (8) *are testing/will test* yourcharacter to the utmost. If you (9) *make/are making* a wrong move, you (10) *will* *bring/shall bring* many opportunities but there (12) *will be/are being* risks, too, so becareful!