

LANGUAGE REVIEW

Talking about the future

We can use different language forms to talk about the future.

- We use *going to* to talk about what we intend to do and have already decided to do.
*My colleague and I **are going to** attend our Chairman's wedding in Seattle next month. Some airlines **are going to** increase fuel surcharges this week.*
- We use *will* or *'ll* to talk about something we have decided to do at the time of speaking.
*The deal's off. **I'll call** the travel agent to cancel the flights.*
- We use the present continuous to talk about a fixed arrangement.
***I'm travelling** from Australia to Europe in September.*
- We use the present simple to talk about a timetable or programme.
*The flight **leaves** Ho Chi Minh City at 11:30 on Tuesday. It **arrives** in Danang at 12:40.*

➡ Grammar reference page 146

A Complete each dialogue with the correct form of *going to* or *will*.

- A Have you decided where to hold the sales conference?
B Yes, we book the Emory Centre in Atlanta.
- A I can't find my passport.
B OK, you look in your bag, and I check the back seat of the car.
- A What are you planning to do in Tokyo?
B We meet our agent to discuss next year's advertising budget.
- A I'm afraid the flight's been cancelled.
B I need to get there tonight. I take the train. I think it leaves at nine.
- A The Hertz counter is a good place to meet.
B OK, I wait for you there.

B Choose the correct tense (present continuous or present simple) to complete the sentences.

- We *stay / are staying* at the Ritz for next week's conference.
- According to the timetable, the coach *departs / is departing* from Victoria at 8:00, reaches Lille at 12:30 and arrives in Paris at 13:30.
- Excuse me, what time *is the conference beginning / does the conference begin*?
- What *do you do / are you doing* on Tuesday afternoon?
- What time *is this train getting / does this train get* to Osaka?
- Next time, I *travel / am travelling* to Madrid by train.

C In pairs, take turns to complete the sentences below. Use *going to*, *will*, the present continuous or the present simple.

- The flight's delayed, so
- OK, I've decided. I
- Let's check the timetable. The flight
- It's OK, I don't need a lift. I
- Friday afternoon? I'll just check my diary. I
- There are two flights to Hong Kong on Friday.
- It's all arranged, we
- Next week,