

# Future Forms: Plans, Intentions & Evidence

## INTERMEDIATE

Focus: Prior decisions, Intentions for the future, Personal plans, Fixed arrangements, Scheduled meetings, Comparing plans and arrangements, Visual evidence, Imminent future events, Logical consequences, Was/Were going to

To talk about the future at the Intermediate level, we often choose between **Present Continuous** and **Be going to** depending on how "fixed" the plan is or if we have evidence for a prediction. We also use **Was/Were going to** to talk about plans in the past that didn't happen.

### 1. Future Plans and Intentions: "Be going to"

We use **am / is / are + going to + infinitive** when we have already decided to do something, but the details (time, specific date) might not be fully fixed yet. This expresses an **intention**.

- *Example:* "I **am going to learn** Spanish next year." (I have decided this, but I haven't booked a class yet.)
- *Negative:* "She **isn't going to buy** a new car."
- *Question:* "**Are you going to visit** your parents?"

### 2. Fixed Arrangements: Present Continuous

We use the **Present Continuous** (am/is/are + verb-ing) when a plan is a **fixed arrangement**. This usually means you have booked a time, bought a ticket, or agreed with another person.

- *Example:* "I **am meeting** John at 5:00 PM." (We have agreed on the time and place.)
- *Example:* "We **are flying** to Rome tomorrow." (We have the tickets.)

#### Comparison:

- **Intention:** "I'm going to play tennis." (I want to, but I might not have a partner yet.)
- **Arrangement:** "I'm playing tennis with Sarah." (Everything is organized.)

### 3. Predictions based on Evidence: "Be going to"

We use **be going to** when we can **see** something happening now that makes us sure about the future.

- *Example:* "Look at those black clouds! It **is going to rain**."
- *Example:* "Watch out! That box **is going to fall**!"

### 4. Unfulfilled Past Intentions: "Was / Were going to"

We use **was / were + going to + infinitive** to describe a plan or intention we had in the past that did not happen or was interrupted.

- *Example:* "I **was going to call** you, but my phone died."
- *Example:* "They **were going to travel** to Japan, but the flight was cancelled."

## Grammar Structure Table

Type	Form	Example
Affirmative (+)	Subject + <b>be (going to / -ing)</b>	She <b>is going to study</b> . / She <b>is leaving</b> at 8 PM.
Negative (-)	Subject + <b>be + not (going to / -ing)</b>	He <b>isn't going to eat</b> . / He <b>isn't coming</b> .
Question (?)	<b>Be + Subject + (going to / -ing)...?</b>	<b>Are you going to help?</b> / <b>Are we meeting?</b>

## Practice Exercises

**Instruction:** Complete the sentences using the correct form of the verb. Pay close attention to the context (arrangement, intention, evidence, or unfulfilled past plan).

1. Look at the traffic on the GPS! We \_\_\_\_\_ (be) late for the movie.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (you/do) anything special this weekend? We have tickets for the concert if you want to come.
3. I \_\_\_\_\_ (not/buy) that jacket. It is too expensive, so I have decided to save my money instead.
4. Why \_\_\_\_\_ (he/pack) his suitcase? Is he leaving today?
5. I \_\_\_\_\_ (email) you regarding the project, but then I realized it was better to speak in person.
6. Look at that little boy on the high wall. He \_\_\_\_\_ (fall)!
7. We \_\_\_\_\_ (not/visit) my aunt this summer because she is away on holiday.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ (you/see) the dentist tomorrow? I know you mentioned you had an appointment.
9. Sorry I can't stay. I \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) my boss for lunch in ten minutes.
10. They \_\_\_\_\_ (not/move) to the new house last week because the contract wasn't ready.
11. What \_\_\_\_\_ (she/wear) to the party tonight? Has she decided yet?
12. The sky is so clear. It \_\_\_\_\_ (not/rain) today.
13. My brother \_\_\_\_\_ (start) a new business next year. That is his main goal.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ (they/get) married? I saw them looking at wedding rings, but I don't see a fixed date.
15. We \_\_\_\_\_ (not/cook) dinner tonight; we have a reservation at the Italian restaurant.

## **Answer Key**

- 1.** are going to be  
*(Prediction based on current evidence - traffic on GPS)*
- 2.** Are you doing  
*(Inquiry about fixed arrangements/plans for the weekend)*
- 3.** am not going to buy  
*(Intention/Decision made before speaking)*
- 4.** is he packing  
*(Present continuous implies an action happening now related to an imminent arrangement, or asking about the current arrangement)*
- 5.** was going to email  
*(Unfulfilled past intention - I planned it, but changed my mind)*
- 6.** is going to fall  
*(Prediction based on visual evidence)*
- 7.** aren't going to visit / are not going to visit  
*(Intention/Plan for the future)*
- 8.** Are you seeing  
*(Fixed arrangement - implied appointment)*
- 9.** am meeting  
*(Fixed arrangement - scheduled time involved)*
- 10.** weren't going to move / were not going to move  
*(Context implies a past plan, though 'didn't move' is possible, the prompt focuses on intentions. However, structurally 'were not going to move' fits the unfulfilled/changed plan logic best)*
- 11.** is she going to wear  
*(Asking about an intention/decision)*
- 12.** isn't going to rain / is not going to rain  
*(Prediction based on evidence)*
- 13.** is going to start  
*(Intention/Plan)*
- 14.** Are they going to get  
*(Inquiry about intention/plan)*
- 15.** aren't cooking / are not cooking  
*(Fixed arrangement/Plan contrary to cooking - confirmed by reservation)*