

UNIT 5 Going to (I am going to do)

a) We use **going to (do)** when we say what we have already decided to do, what we intend to do in the future:

- A: There's a film on television tonight. **Are you going to watch it?**
- B: No, I'm too tired. **I'm going to have an early night.**
- A: I hear Ann has won a lot of money. **What is she going to do with it?**
- B: I've heard she's **going to travel round the world.**
- A: Have you made the coffee yet?
- B: No, but **I'm just going to make it.** (just = just at this moment)

For the difference between **will** and **going to** see Unit 8.

b) We prefer to use the present continuous (**I am doing**) when we say what someone has *arranged* to do – for example, arranged to meet someone, arranged to travel somewhere. **Going to** is also possible:

- What time **are you meeting** Ann? (or 'are you going to meet')
- I'm **travelling** to Scotland on Monday. (or 'I'm going to travel')

See also Unit 4a.

c) We use **was/were going to** to say what someone intended to do in the past (but didn't do):

- We **were going to travel** by train but then we decided to go by car.
- A: Did Tom do the examination?
- B: No, he **was going to do** it but in the end he changed his mind.
- I **was just going to cross** the road when someone shouted 'Stop!'.

d) **Going to** also has another meaning. Study this example situation:



The man can't see where he is going. There is a hole in front of him.

He is **going to** fall into the hole.

Here the speaker is saying what he thinks will happen. Of course he doesn't mean that the man intends to fall into the hole.

We use **going to** in this way when we say what we think will happen. Usually there is something in the present situation (the man walking towards the hole) that makes the speaker sure about what will happen.

- Look at those black clouds! It's **going to rain.** (the clouds are there now)
- Oh, I feel terrible. I think I'm **going to be sick.** (I feel terrible now)

UNIT 5 Exercises

5.1 In this exercise you have to say when you are going to do something.

Examples: Have you cleaned the car? (tomorrow) Not yet. I'm going to clean it tomorrow.
Have you made the coffee? (just) Not yet. I'm just going to make it.

- 1 Have you phoned Tom? (after lunch) Not yet. I
- 2 Have you had dinner? (just) Not yet.
- 3 Have you painted your flat? (soon) Not
- 4 Have you repaired my bicycle? (just)

5.2 In this exercise you have to write questions with going to.

Example: I've won a lot of money. (what / with it?) What are you going to do with it?

- 1 I'm going to a party tonight. (what / wear?)
- 2 Tom has just bought a painting. (where / hang it?)
- 3 I've decided to have a party. (who / invite?)

5.3 In this exercise you have to use was/were going to.

Example: Did you travel by train? No, I was going to travel by train but I changed my mind.

- 1 Did you buy that jacket you saw in the shop window?
No, I but I changed my mind.
- 2 Did Sue get married?
No, she but she
- 3 Did Tom resign from his job?
No, but
- 4 Did Wayne and Sharon go to Greece for their holidays?
No,
- 5 Did you play tennis yesterday?
No,
- 6 Did you invite Ann to the party?
No,

5.4 Now you have to say what you think is going to happen in these situations.

Example: The sky is full of black clouds. (rain) It's going to rain.

- 1 Terry is doing his examinations tomorrow. He hasn't done any work for them and he is not very intelligent. (fail) He
- 2 It is 8.30. Tom is leaving his house. He has to be at work at 8.45 but the journey takes 30 minutes. (be late)
- 3 There is a hole in the bottom of the boat. It is filling up with water very quickly. (sink) It
- 4 Ann is driving. There is very little petrol left in the tank. The nearest petrol station is a long way away. (run out of petrol)