There are several ways of talking about the future in English. We can, for example, use the **simple future tense**, the **going to** form or the **simple present tense**.

### The simple future tense

The simple future tense is used to talk about things which are beyond our control. It expresses the future as fact.

- We *will know* our exam results in May.
- I *will turn* thirty this year.

The simple future tense is also used to talk about what we think or believe will happen in the future. It is commonly used with *‘I think’, ‘I’m sure’, ‘I expect’, ‘I believe’* etc.

- I think Germany *will win* the World Cup.
- I think it *will rain* this evening.

We also use this tense to talk about things which we decide to do at the time of speaking.

- ‘Mr. Smith is very busy at the moment’ – ‘All right. I *will wait.*’
- ‘There is the door bell.’ *‘I’ll go.*’

### Going to

We use **going to** to talk about our intentions and plans - things we are ‘going to’ do.

- I am *going to* get a good job.
- ‘Why are you selling your motorbike?’ ‘I am *going to* buy a car.’
- She is *going to* get married.

Note that the **going to** form is always used when we are talking about actions or events that are already decided upon.

The **going to** form is also used to talk about something which seems likely or certain because there is outside evidence.

- Look at the sky. It is *going to rain.*
- She is *going to* have a baby.

### Be about to + base form of the verb

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This structure is used to talk about the immediate future.

- The train is about to leave. (= The train will leave in a short while.)
- Don’t go out now. We are about to have dinner.