

4.1 will/be going to for predictions and decisions

Predictions

GR4.1a

- Climate change **will cause** huge problems.
- Soon there **won't be** space in cities for all the people who want to live in them.
- Look at the traffic! It's **going to take** a long time to get there.

We can use both *will* + infinitive without *to* and *be going to* to talk about predictions for the future.

- We generally use *will/won't* when we want to say what we believe or think about the future. This is often when the prediction is based on personal feeling or opinion.
You'll have a great time on holiday.
You won't pass the test. You haven't studied enough.

We often say *I don't think ... will* for a negative prediction
NOT *I think ... won't*.

I don't think people will live in floating cities in the future.

- We generally use *be going to* when there is some evidence in the present to support the prediction or an action is starting or clearly on the way.
There isn't a cloud in sight. It's going to be a lovely day.
I'm not going to finish this report today. I haven't got enough time.

Decisions

GR4.1b

- What a lovely day! I'll **have** a swim later.
- We're **going to have** a few days in Paris next month.

We can use both *will* and *be going to* to talk about decisions.

- We generally use *will* when we make a decision at the moment of speaking.
I'm exhausted. I think I'll go to bed.
I'm full. I won't have dessert.

We often use *will* in cafés and restaurants when we are ordering drinks and meals.

I'll have a pizza and a green salad, please.

- We generally use *be going to* when we have already made a decision. This is often when we are talking about plans and intentions.
My brother's going to visit us in the summer.
I'm not going to take my driving test until next year.

- Complete the conversation with *will* or *be going to* and the verbs in brackets.

- A Do you know any good travel websites?
B Just a minute. *I'll show* (show) you some.
- A You're going to the US this summer, aren't you?
B Yes. We _____ (hire) a car and drive round California.
A Lucky you! You _____ (have) a great time.
- A Look at those clouds! I think it _____ (rain).
B Yes. I think you're right. I _____ (get) my umbrella.
- A Are you free on Wednesday?
B Sorry. I'm _____ (see) my grandparents in London. How about the week after?
A OK, I _____ (call) you early next week.
- A Here's the book I was talking about. I think you _____ (enjoy) it.
B Thanks. I _____ (give) it back to you next week, if that's OK.
- A I think you've missed the last bus.
B I _____ (get) a taxi, then. How much do you think it _____ (cost)?
A I'm really not sure, but I guess it _____ (not be) more than ten euros.
- A Where are you going?
B To the shops. I _____ (get) something to eat.
A While you're there, we need some milk.
B OK, I _____ (get) some milk as well.
- A Oh no! The plane's delayed by four hours. It _____ (be) a long day!
B Oh well. In that case, I _____ (do) some work while we're waiting.

- Complete the text with *will* or *be going to* and the verbs in the box. In some cases, both forms are possible.

be do (x2) go have not have help **rent**

Hi Jules,

You asked about our summer holiday plans. Well, we *'re going to rent* a boat in Turkey and spend two weeks sailing along the coast. I've never sailed before, so I think I ² _____ a couple of lessons before we go. They have courses near here at the sailing club in Portsmouth, so I ³ _____ there. But the other people we are going with are all experienced sailors, so I'm pretty sure we ⁴ _____ any problems. I guess they ⁵ _____ most of the sailing and I ⁶ _____ a little when needed. Anyway, I'm really looking forward to it – I think it ⁷ _____ fun. What about your holidays? ⁸ _____ you _____ anything this summer?

See you soon,

Denise

4.2 will/may/might to talk about probability

GR4.2)))

- 1 People **will continue** to move from the countryside to the city, so in the next fifty years there **may be** many cities with populations of more than ten million.
- 2 Owning their own home **might become** impossible for most people.
- 3 Temperatures **are likely to rise** over the next century, and this **may possibly have** an impact on weather.

Modal verbs

- We can use the modal verbs *will*, *might* and *may* to talk about how sure we are about something. *Will* generally expresses more certainty. *Might* and *may* have very similar meanings.
The population will continue to rise, and it may reach ten billion by the end of the century.
Walking in the countryside might have a number of health benefits.

Adverbs and adjectives

- We can use the adverbs *probably*, *possibly* and *definitely* with *will/might/may* to give more information about how sure we are. However, this is most common with *will*. The adverb generally goes after *will* and before *won't/will not*.
They probably won't arrive before midnight.
We'll possibly go for a walk later this afternoon.
I'll definitely see you sometime next week.
Deforestation may possibly continue for another 100 years.
- We can also use the adjectives *likely* and *unlikely*. We use the infinitive with *to* after *(un)likely*.
Urban living is likely to continue increasing.
They're unlikely to arrive before midnight.

Here is a summary of degree of certainty:

Certain	Possible	Unlikely	Impossible
<i>will (definitely)</i>	<i>will probably will possibly may is likely to might</i>	<i>is unlikely to probably won't</i>	<i>(definitely) won't</i>

1 Put the words in the right order to make sentences.

- 1 likely / is / global warming / for several hundred years / continue / to .
Global warming is likely to continue for several hundred years.
- 2 might / with animals / in the future / communicate / be able to / humans .
In the future, _____.
- 3 will / the planet Mars / one day / humans / colonize / possibly .
One day, _____.
- 4 spend / computer screens / will / we / probably / in front of / more and more time .
We _____.
- 5 to / are / with aliens / unlikely / we / ever make contact .
We _____.
- 6 will / in the future / inside buildings / humans / most of their time / spend .
In the future, _____.
- 7 to be / ever live / won't / humans / two hundred years old / probably .
Humans _____.

2 Rewrite the sentences using the words in brackets.

- 1 I don't think they will arrive in time. (unlikely)
They are unlikely to arrive in time.
- 2 Cities of the future are likely to have more green spaces. (probably)

- 3 It's probable that unemployment will continue rising. (likely)

- 4 The ice caps are unlikely to melt completely. (probably)

- 5 It will possibly rain later. (may)

- 6 I don't think I'll finish my report before Friday. (unlikely)

- 7 If United Nations forecasts are correct, by 2050 the global population might be between nine and ten billion. (likely)
