**Going to**

I am going to buy a new car.

*Going to* is not a tense. It is a special structure that we use to talk about the future.

The structure of *going to* is:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| subject | + | *be* | + | *going* | + | to-infinitive |

The verb *be* is conjugated. Look at these examples:

| **subject** | **be** | **not** | **going** | **to-infinitive** |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| I | am |   | going | to buy | a new car. |
| I | 'm |   | going | to go | swimming. |
| He | is | not | going | to take | the exam. |
| It | is | n't | going | to rain. |   |
| Are | you |   | going | to paint | the house? |

**How do we use *going to*?**

***going to* for intention**

We use *going to* when we have the intention to do something before we speak. We have already made a decision before speaking. Look at these examples:

* Jo has won the lottery. He says he**'s going to buy** a Porsche.
* We**'re** not **going to paint** our bedroom tomorrow.
* When **are** you **going to go** on holiday?

In these examples, we had **an intention or plan before speaking**. The decision was made before speaking.

***going to* for prediction**

We often use *going to* to make a prediction about the future. Our prediction is based on present evidence. We are saying what we think will happen. Here are some examples:

* The sky is very black. It**'s going to snow**.
* It's 8.30! You**'re going to miss** your train!
* I crashed the company car. My boss **isn't going to be** very happy!

In these examples, the **present situation** (black sky, the time, damaged car) gives us a good idea of what is going to happen.

Note that we can also use *going to* with *be* in other tenses, for example:

* I was going to tell him but I forgot.
* I had been going to fix the car for ages.