

will vs be going to

The future is both exciting and scary at the same time right now. Three months ago, we were just entering a new year with many promising items on our to-do list for 2020. **Little did we know** (*Wir konnten nicht ahnen*) that so much would change so quickly.



In September last year, we made plans for a trip and we were going to travel over Easter. In March, we found out that many countries had closed their borders as a result of the pandemic.

Will the pandemic be over by summer? No one really knows.

What we do know, though, is when to use will and going to when talking about the future. Here's a quick guide:

will	be going to
1. Used to talk about a decision made at the moment of speaking	1. Used to talk about future plans
2. Used for predictions (<i>Vorhersagen</i>) based on one's personal opinion	2. Used to talk about predictions based on a fact / evidence
3. Used for promises / offers / requests and / refusals	

Now, let's see if you can identify the right word.

- A: Hi! Are you busy tonight? Shall we have a Skype call?
 B: Hello. Sorry but I _____ (will / am going to) talk to my grandparents this evening. How about tomorrow?
- A: I'm at the supermarket, do we need anything?
 B: Yes, we *are running out of* bread. (... *haben fast kein* ...)
 A: OK, I _____ (will / am going to) buy some.
- A: Are you done with the sales report?
 B: Not quite, but I _____ (will / am going to) send it to you once I have completed it.
- A: Do you watch football? What are your thoughts?
 B: Based on the *current* (*aktuell*) scores, Liverpool _____ (will / is going to) win this season.
- A: Could I speak to Mr Smith please?
 B: I'm afraid he's in a meeting. Would you like to call him back at 6?
 A: Hmm, I don't think I _____ (will / am going to) be in the office then. Please tell him to send me the presentation via email.

© Antipolis GmbH

Answer key

1. Am going to Used to talk about **future plans**
2. Will Used to talk about a **decision** at the moment of speaking
3. Will Used for **promises**
4. Is going to Used to talk about **predictions** based on a **fact / evidence**
5. Will Used for **predictions** (*Vorhersagen*) based on one's **personal opinion**