

Be Going To - Structure

How do we make the *going to* future form in English?

Note: We use the present continuous form of **go** for the beginning of this structure, but this is **NOT** the present continuous tense.

Positive form

present simple of **be** + **going to** + base form
(We can also say: present continuous of **go** + infinitive)

Full form	Short form
I am going to play	I'm going to play
you are going to play	you're going to play
he is going to play	he's going to play
she is going to play	she's going to play
it is going to play	it's going to play
we are going to play	we're going to play
they are going to play	they're going to play

For example:

- I **am going to study** tonight.
- He's driving too fast. He's **going to get** a ticket.
- The students **are going to be** here in half an hour. (they are going to be)

Some notes on short forms:

1. We usually contract **am**, **are** and **is** with personal pronouns in speaking and informal writing: I'm, you're, he's, etc.
2. With nouns and other words, we often contract **are** and **is** in speaking, but in writing (informal), we usually only contract **is**: Jane's, the dog's, nobody's, that's, etc. So we do **not** typically write: ~~the students're~~, ~~those're~~, etc.
3. Similarly, we do **not** contract **are** in writing if we have a compound subject: ~~Jane and I're~~.

Negative form

Put **not** after the present simple of **be (am/are/is)**.

Full form	Short forms	
I am not going to play	I'm not going to play	-
you are not going to play	you're not going to play	you aren't going to play
he is not going to play	he's not going to play	he isn't going to play
she is not going to play	she's not going to play	she isn't going to play
it is not going to play	it's not going to play	it isn't going to play
we are not going to play	we're not going to play	we aren't going to play
they are not going to play	they're not going to play	they aren't going to play

For example:

- I'm **not going to go** to bed late tonight.
- There are no clouds. It **is not going to rain**.
- We're **not going to buy** a new car this year.
- They **aren't going to grow** without water.

Question forms

Invert the subject and the present simple of **be (am/are/is)**, and then put a question word (**what, who**, etc.) at the beginning for wh- questions.

Yes/No questions	
	Am I going to play?
	Are you going to play?
	Is he going to play?
	Is she going to play?
	Is it going to play?
	Are we going to play?
	Are they going to play?

Wh- questions	
What Who Where When Why How etc.	am I going to play?
	are you going to play?
	is he going to play?
	is she going to play?
	is it going to play?
	are we going to play?
	are they going to play?

For example:

- Am I going to pass this test?
- Are you going to come to the party?
- Is the plan going to work? (is it going to work)
- Where is Jane going to live? (is she going to live)
- How long are we going to stay?
- When are they going to arrive?