

Going to- Future



1. Read the text message conversation between two housemates and answer the questions on the next page.

Hi Kevin, I am going to invite some friends to our house for dinner on the weekend, will you be at home? You're welcome to join us for dinner if you'd like.

Hi Ruby, that sounds nice, but I'm afraid I can't come, I'm going to visit my brother this weekend, so I won't be at home.

No problem, have fun! One little thing, are you going to clean the bathroom before you go? It's really dirty, and it's your turn to clean it.

Oh, is it my turn? Well, I can't clean the bathroom before the weekend, but I'm going to do it next week, I promise!

Sorry but I really need you to do it *before* this weekend. As I said, my friends are going to be here on Saturday, and I don't want the bathroom to be dirty when they get here!

Oh come on, your friends are not going to care how our bathroom looks, relax Ruby!

Kevin, you need to start doing your chores, our house is always so messy because you never clean! I'm going to clean the bathroom this time, but this is the last time I am going to do your chores!

- a) Why does Ruby want Kevin to clean the bathroom? *She has friends coming for dinner*
- b) Why can't Kevin come to Ruby's dinner? *He is going to visit his brother.*
- c) Why is Ruby frustrated with Kevin? *Because he is lazy and doesn't clean.*
- d) Have you ever lived with someone who was really messy and didn't clean?

'Going to' for the Future

We use *'the verb be (am, is, are) + going to + base verb'* to talk about the future.

For example: *"We are going to have lunch at a restaurant tomorrow."*

'Going to' is similar to 'will', but going to is often used when we have already planned something. 'Will' is more often used when we make the decision in the moment.

For example: *"I am tired, I think I will go to bed now."* (decided in the moment)

"I am going to buy a house next year." (planned in the future)

However, there are many times when both *'going to'* and *'will'* are correct.

For example: *"He is going to walk the dog tomorrow."* ✓

"He will walk the dog tomorrow" ✓

The negative structure for 'going to' future is *'the verb be + not + going to + base verb'*

For example: *"They are not going to go on holiday this month, they are too busy."*



2. Complete the sentences below using "going to" and any verb that makes sense. More than one answer is possible.

- a) I e.g. *"am going to eat/have"* lunch with my friends today.
- b) She *is going to get / buy / have* a new car tomorrow.
- c) I *am going to watch /play* football this weekend.
- d) We *are going to go* to the beach on Thursday
- e) My *dad is going to clean* our kitchen because it's really dirty.
- f) I *am not going to do* (negative) my homework tonight, I am too tired!
- g) My *friends are going to have* a party on Friday, do you want to come?
- h) He *is not going to clean* (negative) the house, he's too lazy!

'Going to' Questions

We use 'verb be + subject + going to + base verb' for closed questions with going to.

For example: "Are you going to wash the dishes?" or "Is he going to move to Italy?"

For open questions with going to we use 'question word + verb be + subject + going to + base verb.'

For example: "When are you going to wash the dishes?" or "Where are we going to go for our next holiday?"



3. Complete the questions using 'going to' and any verb that makes sense. More than one correct answer is possible

- a) What *are* you *going to do* tomorrow?
- b) What *are* you *going to have /eat/ make/ cook* for dinner tonight?
- c) *Are* you *going to play* sports this week?
- d) Where *are* you *going to go / visit* for your next holiday?
- e) *Are* you *going to watch* TV tonight?
- d) What *are* you *going to do* next year?



4. Pairwork: ask your partner the questions above and write down their answers in the 'going to' form.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.



5. Match the chores in the box to the pictures below

feed the dog 4

vacuum 5

wash the dishes 8

mow the lawn 3

take out the garbage/trash 7

walk the dog 6

water the plants 1

grocery shopping 2



'Going to' and 'Gonna'

When we are speaking quickly, 'going to' is often shortened to 'gonna.'

For example: *"I'm gonna take out the garbage tomorrow morning."*

Note: while it is very common to say 'gonna', it is almost never written that way.



6. Ask and answer the questions below with a partner. Try to use 'gonna' in your answers.

- When are you gonna go to sleep tonight?
- Are you gonna go grocery shopping this week?
- What are you gonna do for your next birthday?
- Are you gonna be at our next English lesson?

7. Look at the weekly chore plan for Kevin and Ruby's apartment and make 5 'going to' sentences. Read your sentences to the class with the 'gonna' pronunciation.



<u>Day</u>	<u>Ruby</u>	<u>Kevin</u>
<u>Mon</u>	Take out the trash	Walk the dog
<u>Tues</u>	Clean the bathroom	Water the plants
<u>Wed</u>	Vacuum, walk the dog	Mow the lawn
<u>Thurs</u>	Do the grocery shopping	Take out the trash
<u>Fri</u>	Water the plants	
<u>Sat</u>	Walk the dog	Vacuum
<u>Sun</u>	Walk the dog	do the grocery shopping

For example: "On Monday Kevin's gonna walk the dog."

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)



8. Listen to the discussion¹ between Ruby and Kevin and answer the questions.

- a) How does Ruby get Kevin to pause his game? *She says if he doesn't pause it she is going to turn off his computer*
- b) When is Kevin going to vacuum? *Probably never, but he says tomorrow*
- c) What type of business is Kevin going to start, and what is he going to do with the money he makes? *A social media site called Friendbook, he is going to pay someone to do the vacuuming*
- d) When is Kevin going to walk the dog, and why does he think he doesn't need to do it every day? *He says he is going to do it today. He doesn't think he should walk the dog because the dog is very thin.*
- e) What is Ruby going to make for lunch? *Nothing, she is going to have Sushi at a restaurant with her friends.*
- f) Why didn't Kevin do the grocery shopping? *Because he was too busy playing video games and planning 'Friendbook'*
- g) How would you describe Kevin as a housemate?



Was/Were Going to

If we want to say that we had a plan in the past, but the plan changed or did not happen for some reason, we use 'was going to + base verb'

For example: *"I was going to do the grocery shopping, but I played video games instead."*

When the subject of the sentence is 'we', 'they', or 'you', the word 'was' becomes 'were.'

For example: *"We were going to paint our house green, but then we decided blue looked better."*

Note: Just like 'going to' is often shortened to 'gonna', 'was/were going to' is often shortened (in spoken English, not in written English) to 'was/were gonna.'

For example: *"I was gonna come to your party, but I got really sick the day before."*

¹ <https://quick-and-easy-english.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/1.-Going-to.mp3>



9. Read the sentences and express the same thing using 'was/were going to' sentences.

a) I wanted to study art, but I decided to study medicine instead.

For example: *"I was going to study art, but I studied medicine instead."*

b) John was on his way to being a professional soccer player, but then he broke his leg.

He was going to be a professional soccer player, but then he broke his leg.

c) Our plan was to drive to the beach, but our car broke down, so we just went for a walk.

We were going to drive to the beach, but our car broke down.

d) We wanted to get a cat, but my mum is allergic, so we got a dog.

We were going to get a cat, but we got a dog instead.

e) I know I said I would call you last night, but I was so tired I fell asleep as soon as I got home.

I was going to call you, but I fell asleep instead.

f) They had planned to buy a house, but then the housing market got really expensive.

They were going to buy a house, but then the housing market got really expensive.



10. Think about some plans in your life (or someone else's life) that changed. Express them with 'was/were going to' sentences. Say your sentences to the class with the 'gonna' pronunciation.

For example: *"My friend was going to visit me last weekend, but he was too busy."*

1)

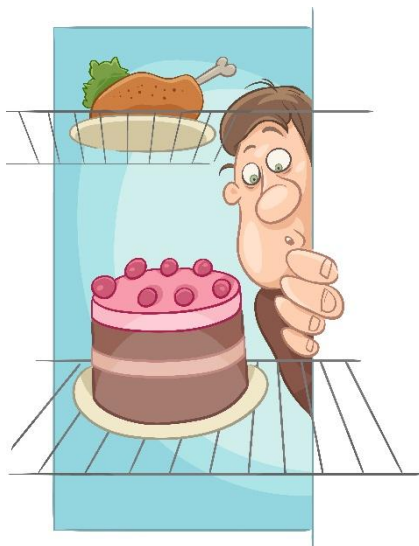
2)

3)

4)

11. Listen to the discussion² between Ruby and Kevin and answer the questions.

- a) Why didn't Ruby come straight home after lunch? *She has to do the grocery shopping*
- b) Why didn't Kevin message Ruby about the groceries? *He was busy planning Friendbook*
- c) Why doesn't Kevin want a banana? *He hates fruit*
- d) Why was Ruby not happy with Kevin's groceries last week? *He only bought chips and coke.*
- e) Why didn't Kevin clean the kitchen? *He found a cake and ate it. It made him sleepy so he went to sleep.*
- f) What did Ruby have planned for the cake in the fridge, and why does she say that she is going to kill Kevin? *She was going to bring the chocolate cake to her friends' party, and he ate it.*



² <https://quick-and-easy-english.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/2.-Was-going-to.mp3>

Transcript 1

Ruby: Kevin?

Kevin: Ummm... yes?

Ruby: Could you pause that game for a second, we need to talk?

Kevin: Just... just give me a second... Im...

Ruby: Kevin, seriously, pause the game

Kevin: One second! I've never beat this, level before, ... I'm almost..

Ruby: Kevin if you don't pause that game, I'm going to turn off your computer

Kevin: Ok fine. What do you want?

Ruby: When are you going to clean the house, Kevin? I did my chores on Sunday, it's Tuesday now and you still haven't done anything.

Kevin: I know, I know, I am going to take out the trash this afternoon and I'm going to vacuum tomorrow, I've just had a very busy week.

Ruby: Busy with what? You don't have a job.

Kevin: I've been busy planning. I'm going to start a new business, but I need to plan it first.

Ruby: Ok. What type of business are you gonna start?

Kevin: I'm gonna start a new social media website called Friendbook. It's gonna let people connect with all their friends and talk to people all over the world! I'm gonna make a lot of money with it, and then I'm gonna pay someone to vacuum for me!

Ruby: That... that sounds a lot like Facebook Kevin.

Kevin: No, Friendbook is gonna be completely different from Facebook. For one thing there are gonna be no photos or videos on Friendbook!

Ruby: So... Facebook without the photos or videos?

Kevin: Exactly! It's gonna be so popular!

Ruby: Right. Sure. Well I can see that you're a very busy CEO, but are you going to walk the dog? It's not just the vacuum cleaning that you need to do.

Kevin: Sure, no problem, I'm gonna do that next weekend.

Ruby: Next weekend? Kevin you need to walk the dog every day.

Kevin: I don't think so. The dog looks really thin and unhealthy at the moment, he needs to be a bit fatter, so I don't think I should walk him every day.

Ruby: Kevin he's thin because you forget to feed him all the time. You need to walk him today. When are you gonna do it?

Kevin: Fine, I'm gonna do it today after we eat lunch. By the way, what are you gonna make for lunch?

Ruby: I'm not going to make anything for Lunch Kevin, I'm gonna go to a restaurant with my friends. We're gonna have sushi for lunch.

Kevin: But... then what am I gonna eat?

Ruby: What are you going to eat? Did you do the grocery shopping today? Why don't you make lunch with that?

Kevin: Well... I was going to do the grocery shopping, but I played video games instead. I needed a break from planning Friendbook.

Ruby: That's not my problem Kevin. I'm gonna go have lunch with my friends now, are you gonna walk the dog this afternoon?

Kevin: Yes! I'm gonna do it right after this level, I promise.

Ruby: Right. See you later.

Kevin: Bye, have a good time!

Video game noises resume

Transcript 2

Sounds of video games

Kevin: Oh hey, (beep sound for pause) you're home late, what took you so long?

Ruby: Well, I was going to come straight home after lunch, but then I remembered that you didn't do the grocery shopping, so I stopped to pick up so groceries.

Kevin: Ah fantastic! I was going to message you to pick up some food, but I was busy planning Friendbook, there's so much work to do. Did you pick up those chips that I like? And did you get any coke?

Ruby: Well I was going to get those things... but then I remembered it was your job to pick up the groceries, so I only got the things that I like. Would you like a banana?

Kevin: That's not fair! You know I hate fruit.

Ruby: Not fair? Are you serious? Do you know what's not fair Kevin? It's not fair that every week I do all my chores, and you do none of yours!

Kevin: That's not true, I went grocery shopping last week!

Ruby: You bought 10 bags of chips and 6 bottles of coke!

Kevin: I mean... I still went grocery shopping, I bought the coke and chips at the supermarket, so it's still groceries.

Ruby: Kevin this can not continue like this. If you don't start doing your chores, I'm gonna go crazy. Enough is enough.

Kevin: Ok, Ok, fine, I'll do more chores. I was going to clean the kitchen yesterday.

Ruby: So why didn't you?

Kevin: Well I found some cake, really delicious cake, and I ate that, and that made me sleepy so ... well instead of cleaning the kitchen I went to sleep.

Ruby: Wait... did you eat the chocolate cake in the fridge?

Kevin: Yes! It was amazing, did you make it?

Ruby: Yes I did. I was going to bring that to my friend's birthday party tomorrow. We were gonna surprise her with it. She loves chocolate cake.

Kevin: Oh! Sorry, I didn't know. I didn't eat all of it, there are still a few pieces in the fridge.

Ruby: I'm gonna kill you Kevin.