

Unit 5 Going to (I am going to do)

a We use **going to (do)** when we say what we have already decided to do, what we intend to do in the future:

- A: There's a film on television tonight. **Are you going to watch it?**
B: No, I'm too tired. **I'm going to have** an early night.
- A: I hear Ann has won a lot of money. What **is she going to do** with it?
B: I've heard she's **going to travel** round the world.
- A: Have you made the coffee yet?
B: No, but I'm just **going to make** it. (just = just at this moment)

For the difference between **will** and **going to** see **Unit 8**.

b We prefer to use the present continuous (**I am doing**) when we say what someone has *arranged* to do - for example, arranged to meet someone, arranged to travel somewhere. **Going to** is also possible:

- What time **are you meeting** Ann? (or '**are you going to meet**')
- **I'm travelling** to Scotland on Monday. (or '**I'm going to travel**')
See also **Unit 4a**.

c We use **was/were going to** to say what someone intended to do in the past (but didn't do):

- We **were going to travel** by train but then we decided to go by car.
- A: Did Tom do the examination?
B: No, he **was going to do** it but in the end he changed his mind.
- I **was just going to cross** the road when someone shouted 'Stop!'.

d **Going to** also has another meaning.



The man can't see where he is going. There is a hole in front of him.

He is going to fall into the hole.

Here the speaker is saying what he thinks will happen. Of course he doesn't mean that the man intends to fall into the hole.

We use **going to** in this way when we say what we think will happen. Usually there is something in the present situation (the man walking towards the hole) that makes the speaker sure about what will happen.

- Look at those black clouds! **It's going to rain**. (the clouds are there now)
- Oh, I feel terrible. I think **I'm going to be sick**. (I feel terrible now)