

Will and Going: what is the difference?

What is the difference between will and going to?

To put it simply, we use *'be going to' + infinitive verb* to evoke an intention to do something when a decision has already been made as we speak.

When the decision is made immediately, we use will. Will is also stronger than going to (*will* is used to make a promise, for example).

Compare the following examples:

- I need the car. I'm going to visit Uncle Paul.
- She'll tell you why she did it.

We also use *Be going to* to predict something from what we see or know. With *Will*, the prediction is more abstract:

- Look at this kid with his skateboard. I'm sure he's going to fall.
- She's going to have a baby. Her belly is really big.
- Be careful! You're going to drop those glasses.
- It's going to rain.

That said, sometimes there is not much difference between *will* and *going to* and you can use either one or the other:

- I think the weather will be nice tomorrow morning. = I think the weather is going to be nice tomorrow morning.