

Future with present continuous or going to

PRESENT CONTINUOUS (I am doing)

We use the present continuous for future arrangements.

STRUCTURE

To be + verb/ing (add a future expression)

Mary **is visiting** her sister tomorrow.

STUDY THIS EXAMPLE

They are getting married next Saturday.

I've decided to do it and the arrangement has been made.

GOING TO (I am going to do)

We use 'going to' for future plans or intentions that maybe we haven't arranged yet.

STRUCTURE

To be + going to + infinitive (future expression)

Tom **is going to be** a doctor one day.

We can't say '~~is being a doctor~~' one day'

STUDY THIS EXAMPLE

They are going to get married next summer.

I've decided to do it but I haven't arranged it yet.

*Often the difference is small and either form is possible. Study these examples:

-All present continuous sentences can be used with the 'going to' form:

-I am visiting my sister tomorrow. - I am going to visit my sister tomorrow. **BUT:**

-Not all 'going to' sentences can be used with present continuous form:

-I am going to be a movie star (future intention). We can't say: I am being a movie star.



EXERCISE



Fill the gaps with the correct form, present continuous or 'going to'.

- 1-Carol _____ (fly) to London in two days time.
- 2-My sister _____ (tidy) her chest of drawers soon, I hope.
- 3-My brother _____ (be) a policeman when he finishes school.
- 4-Michael _____ (buy) a new computer next month.
- 5-My uncle _____ (leave) to Paris tomorrow morning.
- 6-If I don't feel better soon, I _____ (go) to call my doctor.
- 7-Before I go to Germany next year, I _____ (learn) some German.
- 8-What time _____ (meet) Peter tonight? At seven o'clock.
- 9-The sky looks almost black. It _____ (rain) soon.
- 10-If I go to Milan next August, I _____ (visit) the 'Duomo'.
- 11-James _____ (take) his dog for a walk this afternoon.
- 12-'I found a 50 pound note'. 'Wow! What _____ (do) with it?'
- 13-What are you _____ (do) tonight? I'd like to go to the cinema.
- 14-I _____ (make) a phone call after lunch.
- 15-My boss is _____ (travel) to Bristol by train tomorrow.

