

## Lesson 10

### VISITING THE DOCTOR

*Grace has an appointment with Dr. Wilson. After discussing her symptoms and giving her a check-up, he says she has the flu.*

*Doctor:* Hi, I'm Dr. Wilson. **What seems to be the trouble?**

*Grace:* I've been **under the weather** for days.

*Doctor:* The flu is **going around**. Did you get the vaccine?

*Grace:* No, this year I didn't **get around to it**.

*Doctor:* What are your symptoms?

*Grace:* I've had a **splitting headache** since yesterday morning. My whole body hurts.

*Doctor:* You have all the **telltale signs** of the flu. Let me take your temperature ... 101. That's **on the high side**.

*Grace:* My throat hurts, too.

*Doctor:* Let me **take a peek**. Yes, your throat is very red. It looks like a **garden variety** flu.

*Grace:* Are you going to prescribe some medicine for it?

*Doctor:* You can take Tylenol for your headache. Also, be sure to get plenty of rest and drink lots of water.

*Grace:* How long do you think this is going to **drag on?**

*Doctor:* You should be **back on your feet** in a week or so.

*Grace:* I have to get better quickly! I'm needed at the office.

*Doctor:* Well, there's **no magic bullet**. You're going to have to let this **run its course**.

## IDIOMS & EXPRESSIONS

**back on one's feet** – healthy again; returned to good health

- I was sick for two weeks, but now I'm **back on my feet**.

**(to) drag on** – to last too long; to last longer than one wants

- I've had a cold for three weeks. It just keeps **dragging on!**

**garden variety** – ordinary; common; not unusual

- The necklace that Jim bought his girlfriend is not a **garden-variety** piece of jewelry. It cost \$100,000.

**(to) get around to it** – to have a chance to do something; to have time to do something

- I know I need to have my cholesterol checked, but I just haven't **gotten around to it**.

**going around** – spreading; going from one person to another

- Your stomach hurts? You must have caught the bug that's **going around**.

**magic bullet** – a drug or therapy that cures or prevents an illness, without harmful side effects; a simple solution to a problem (usually one that is too simplistic and doesn't work)

- Bedbugs are very hard to get rid of. Unfortunately, there's no **magic bullet**.

NOTE: this is often used in the negative: "no magic bullet"

**on the high side** – rather high

- Emma stayed home from school yesterday because her temperature was **on the high side**.

**or so** – approximately (referring to a time period or quantity of something)

- There were 200 **or so** people at the conference.

**(to) run its course** – to allow time for an illness to pass through one’s body

- There’s no cure for the cold. Just let it **run its course**.

**splitting headache** – a very bad headache

- Julia left work early, saying she had a **splitting headache**.

**(to) take a peek** – to have a quick look

- Your car isn’t running well? Let me **take a peek** under the hood and see if I can figure out what’s wrong.

**telltale signs** – sure signs of a problem; typical symptoms that indicate something

- Liz feels nauseous all the time and says she’s gaining weight. Those are **telltale signs** that she’s pregnant!

**under the weather** – feeling sick

- If you’re **under the weather**, don’t go to work.

**What seems to be the trouble?** – What’s wrong?

- “**What seems to be the trouble?**” asked the auto mechanic when we brought our car in to the shop.

### **Practice the Expressions**

**Imagine that you are at the doctor’s office. Choose the most appropriate replies to the doctor:**

- 1) Are you feeling under the weather again today?
  - a) Yes, I woke up with a headache.
  - b) Yes, I’m feeling much better than yesterday.
  - c) Yes, I see several storm clouds in the sky.
- 2) Get plenty of rest and let this cold run its course.
  - a) Right. I’m planning on going running this afternoon.
  - b) Okay, I’m glad to hear the cold will go away so quickly.
  - c) Okay, I’ll stay home from work for the next couple of days.

- 3) A runny nose and a sore throat are telltale signs of a cold.
  - a) I thought I might have a cold.
  - b) I knew I didn't have a cold.
  - c) I thought it might be cold out today.
- 4) Unfortunately, there's no magic bullet for Lyme Disease.
  - a) Okay, please write me a prescription for it.
  - b) Right, I understand it can be difficult to treat.
  - c) Right, bullets don't cure anything.
- 5) What seems to be the trouble?
  - a) It's no trouble at all.
  - b) My left ear has been hurting for several days.
  - c) Things are going very well.
- 6) Your temperature is 100 degrees. That's on the high side.
  - a) That's good news.
  - b) I thought I was feeling a little warm.
  - c) I thought I was feeling a little cool.
- 7) A stomach bug is going around.
  - a) I think I must have caught it.
  - b) I don't know where it's going.
  - c) I'm glad it's going around.
- 8) What do you usually take when you have a splitting headache?
  - a) I take aspirin or Tylenol.
  - b) I take a couple days off work.
  - c) I don't take anything because it doesn't hurt.
- 9) You've got a garden variety cold.
  - a) Oh no! How will I ever recover?
  - b) Okay. I'm glad it's nothing serious!
  - c) How could I have caught such an illness?
- 10) Your cough shouldn't drag on too much longer.
  - a) So you think it'll last another couple of months?
  - b) So you think I'll have it forever?
  - c) So you think it'll be gone by next week?



## Language Lens: Going to / Will

In spoken English, “going to” is the form used most often to talk about the future.

⇒ Use “going to” to talk about something planned for the future:

- I’m going to buy a new car this year.
- Is your daughter going to attend Dartmouth or Columbia?
- What are you going to do on New Year’s Eve?

⇒ Use “going to” to make a prediction based on evidence you have now:

- Be careful. You’re going to spill your drink!
- This plan is too complicated. It’s not going to work.

“Will” is also often used to speak about the future. Use *will* (*or ’ll*) in these situations:

⇒ To talk about a decision made at the moment of speaking.

Once you’ve made the decision, use “going to” to talk about it:

- I’ll make the dinner reservations for Saturday night. Bob, please let Sara know that I’m going to make the dinner reservations.
- Mom: “If you don’t go to bed right now, I’m not taking you to the zoo tomorrow morning!”

Zach: “I’ll go to bed now! Dad, I’m going to go to bed now.”

⇒ To talk about things we believe to be true about the future:

- I’m sure you’ll like your new job.
- The dean will serve for five years.
- Our new toaster will arrive next Monday.

⇒ To make a promise or an agreement with someone:

- I’ll call you when I get to Paris.
- I’ll send you the check tomorrow.

Note: Do not use “will” or “going to” in future time clauses.

SAY: As soon as you finish the report, call me and we’ll review it.

NOT: ~~As soon as you will finish the report, call me and we’ll review it.~~

## Quick Quiz

### PART A

Form sentences from the following using “going to”:

Example: The Millers / vacation in France next summer.

*Answer: The Millers are going to vacation in France next summer.*

- 1) We / rent a cottage on the beach this August.
- 2) What sights / show your visitors?
- 3) We / move to San Francisco in July.
- 4) I / call my doctor for an appointment.
- 5) Someone / fall on this slippery sidewalk.

### PART B

Fill in the blanks with “going to” or “will”:

- 1) We have squirrels in our attic. We’re not sure yet what we \_\_\_\_ do about it.  
a) will                      b) are going to
- 2) Nobody has taken out the trash? I \_\_\_\_ it.  
a) 'll do                      b) 'm going to do
- 3) Watch out! You \_\_\_\_ hit the car in front of us!  
a) will                      b) are going to
- 4) Did I tell you my plan? I \_\_\_\_ apply to law school.  
a) 'll                      b) 'm going to
- 5) “Will you marry me?” — “Yes, I \_\_\_\_!”  
a) will                      b) am going to