

Visiting the Doctor



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*.

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 I 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.

