

## SECTION 3 talking about the future

### ● grammar summary

There are **three** common ways to talk about the **future** in English:

- with the **going to** structure.  
*I'm really **going to** stop smoking.*
- with the **present progressive**.  
*I'm **seeing** John **this evening**.*
- with **will**.  
*Ann **will be** in the office from 10.00 till 2.00.*

We use **going to** or the **present progressive** especially when the future has some **present** reality: for example to talk about plans that we have already made.

In some cases we can use the **simple present** to talk about the future.

*Her train **arrives** at 15.37. I'll phone you when I **get** home. (See page 221.)*

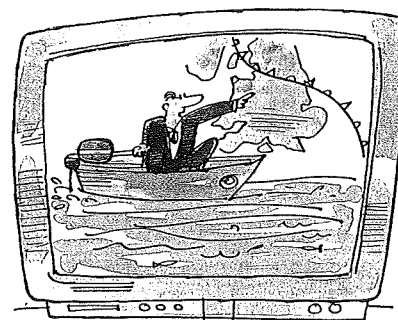
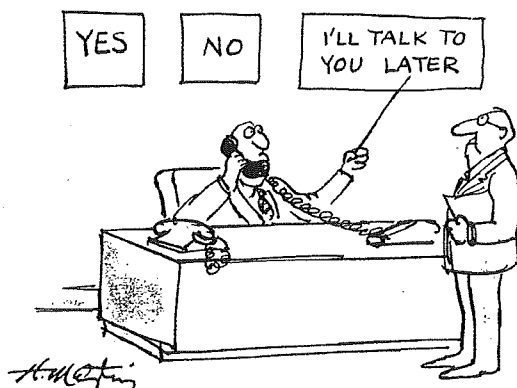
### ● pre-test: which units do you need?

Try this small test. It will help you to decide which units you need. The answers are on page 283.

#### ① Correct (✓) or not (✗)?

► You eat with us this evening? ..✗

- 1 'There's somebody at the door.' 'I go.' ...
- 2 Will Ann and Johnny be here tomorrow? ...
- 3 I promise I write again soon. ...
- 4 Look at those clouds – it will snow. ...
- 5 The car won't start. ...
- 6 I'm working in London next week. ...
- 7 The concert starts at 8.00 this evening. ...
- 8 Mary's going to have a baby. ...
- 9 Do you play tennis with Peter this weekend? ...
- 10 Do you think it's raining tomorrow? ...
- 11 I think it won't rain. ...



'It's going to be wet again today.'

## going to Look – it's going to rain.

1	I am going to drive	you are going to drive	he/she is going to drive etc
2	am I going to drive?	are you going to drive?	is he/she going to drive? etc
3	I am not going to drive	you are not going to drive etc	
For contractions (I'm, aren't etc), see pages 2 and 277.			

We often use **going to** when we can see the future in the present – when a future situation is **starting**, or clearly **on the way**.



Look – it's **going to** rain.



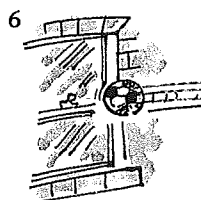
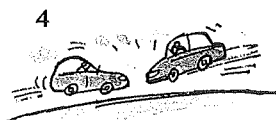
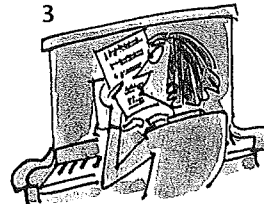
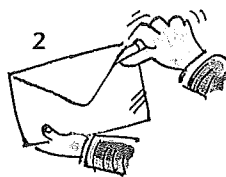
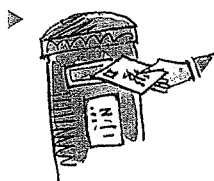
Rebecca's **going to** have a baby next month.

### 1 Look at the pictures. What is going to happen? Use the words in the box.

► She is going to post a letter.

- 1 The woman .....
- 2 He .....
- 3 She .....
- 4 The cars .....
- 5 He .....
- 6 The ball .....

break the window  
crash  
drink coffee  
have breakfast  
play the piano  
post a letter ✓  
read a letter



We often use **going to** to talk about **intentions** – things that people **have decided** (not) to do. This structure is common in conversation.

*I'm going to take a holiday next week.*

*Peter's not going to study chemistry.*

*What are you going to wear this evening?*

*Lucy is going to go to France next year.*

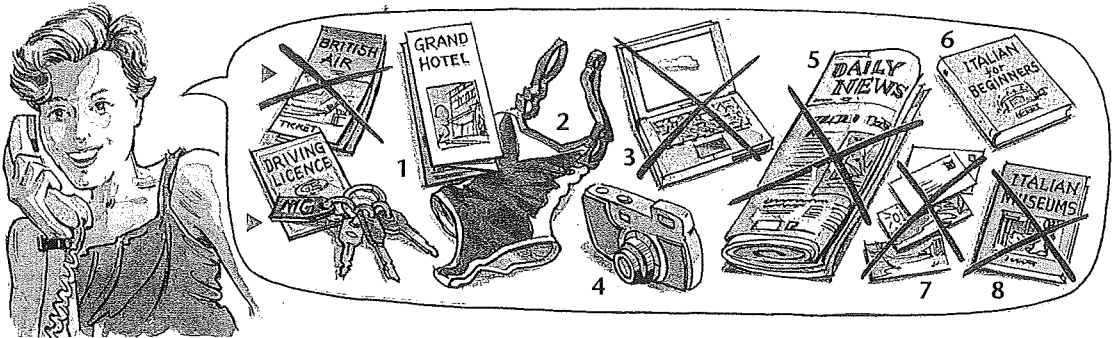
### 2 Make questions with **going to**.

- you / cook supper Are you going to cook supper?
- when / your brothers / be here When are your brothers going to be here?
- 1 Ann / change her school .....
  - 2 where / you / put that picture .....
  - 3 what / you / buy for Bill's birthday .....
  - 4 Eric / play football / tomorrow .....
  - 5 when / you / stop smoking .....
  - 6 Alice / go to university .....

- 3 Ann is talking about her holiday next week. Look at the pictures and complete the sentences.

do any work    drive to Italy ✓    fly ✓    learn some Italian    read English newspapers  
stay in a nice hotel    swim a lot    take photos    visit museums    write postcards

- No, I'm not going to fly ..... 4 .....  
► I'm going to drive to Italy ..... 5 .....  
1 ..... 6 .....  
2 ..... 7 .....  
3 ..... 8 .....

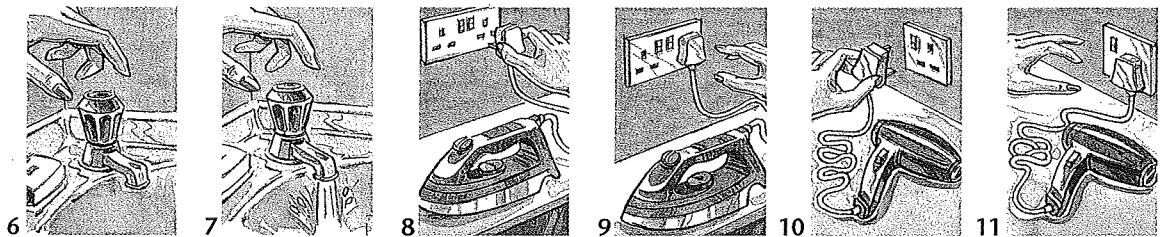
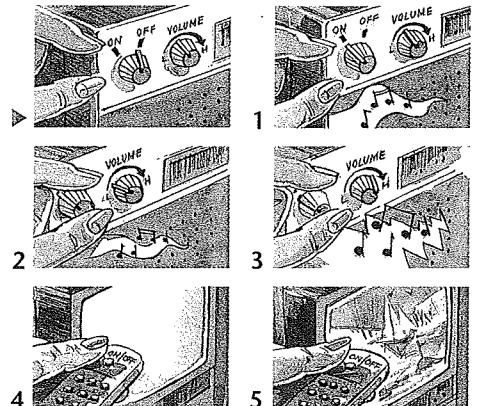


4 GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY: two-word verbs

Make sure you know the verbs in the box. Use a dictionary if necessary. Then look at the pictures and complete the sentences.

plug in    unplug    switch on/off    turn on/off    turn up/down




- She *is going to* ..... switch on the radio.  
1 She ..... off the radio.  
2 ..... turn up .....  
3 ..... down .....  
4 ..... on .....  
5 ..... off .....  
6 ..... turn on the tap.  
7 ..... the tap.  
8 ..... plug in the iron.  
9 ..... unplug the .....  
10 ..... the hair-dryer.  
11 .....



➔ For more about two-word verbs ('phrasal verbs'), see pages 138–139.

NOTE: In **informal** speech (and songs), we often say *gonna* for *going to*.

# present progressive *What are you doing this evening?*

	<i>I am working</i>	<i>you are working</i>	<i>he/she/it is working</i>	<i>we/they are working</i>
	<i>am I working?</i>	<i>are you working?</i>	<i>is he/she/it working?</i>	<i>are we/they working?</i>
	<i>I am not working</i>	<i>you are not working</i>	<i>he/she/it is not working</i>	
For contractions ( <i>I'm</i> , <i>aren't</i> , etc), see pages 2 and 277.				

We can use the **present progressive** with a **future meaning**, especially when we talk about **plans for a fixed time and/or place**.

*'What are you doing this evening?' 'I'm staying in.'*      *Where are you going on holiday?*  
*Joe's coming round this evening.*      *I'm starting a new job next week.*

## 1 Look at Bill's diary and correct the sentences.

- ▶ He's staying in Berlin on Friday night.  
~~No, he's coming back to England on Friday night.~~.....
- He's seeing John Parker on Sunday afternoon.  
.....
  - He's going to the Birmingham office by car.  
.....
  - He's having dinner with Stewart on Tuesday.  
.....
  - He's going to the theatre on Thursday evening.  
.....
  - His new secretary is starting on Friday.  
.....
  - Phil and Monica are going to his wedding on Saturday.  
.....

Sunday	John Parker morning
Monday	to Birmingham (1.15 train)
Tuesday	lunch Stewart 1.00
Wednesday	theatre with Ann and Joe
Thursday	new secretary starting
Friday	to Berlin LH 014 8.00; back LH 135 16.40
Saturday	Phil and Monica's wedding

## 2 A friend of yours is going on holiday soon. Write questions.

- ▶ when / leave ~~When are you leaving?~~..... 3 how / travel .....
- ▶ take / sister ~~Are you taking your sister?~~..... 4 take / dog .....
- where / stay ..... 5 who / go with you .....
  - how long / stay ..... 6 when / come back .....

## 3 GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY: five professions




(Use a dictionary if necessary.) Jane is seeing five people next week, one each day: her bank manager, her solicitor, her accountant, her dentist and her doctor. Who is she seeing when? Fill in the table and complete the sentences.

She's seeing her bank manager before her doctor. She's seeing her doctor on Tuesday. She's seeing her dentist two days after her bank manager. She's seeing her accountant two days after her doctor.

- She's seeing ..... on Monday.
- ..... on Tuesday.
- ..... on Wednesday.
- ..... on Thursday.
- ..... on Friday.

Monday	
Tuesday	doctor
Wednesday	
Thursday	
Friday	

# the *will*-future: forms *I will work. They won't come.*

	I/you/he/she/it/we/they <b>will</b> work
	<b>will</b> I/you/he etc work?
	I/you/he etc <b>will not</b> work
	Contractions: I'll, you'll, etc; won't (= will not)

## 1 Put the words in the correct order.

- ▷ here George be will *George will be here* tomorrow.
- ▷ drive station to you the I'll *I'll drive you to the station* now.
- 1 begin class will the ..... at 9.30.
- 2 be they'll home ..... soon.
- 3 examination will the difficult be I think .....
- 4 walk we'll party the to .....
- 5 her not speak will I to .....

## 2 Make negatives (■) and questions (■).

- ▷ 'I *won't finish* ..... this work today.' 'When *will you finish* ..... it?' (finish)
- ▷ 'John *won't be* ..... here tomorrow.' 'Will he be here ..... on Tuesday?' (be)
- 1 'Annie ..... here at ten.' 'When ..... here?' (be)
- 2 'I ..... time for lunch.' '..... time for a sandwich?' (have)
- 3 'You ..... any pens in there.' 'Where ..... one?' (find)
- 4 'The children ..... to school in Ely.' 'Where .....?' (go)
- 5 'Bob ..... much money if he sells that car.' 'How much .....?' (get)

Be careful when questions have **long subjects** – the word order does not change.

What time **will you** leave?  
 What time **will the bus** leave? (NOT *What time will leave the bus?*)  
 What time **will the bus for the dinner and dance** leave? (NOT *What time the bus ... will leave?*)

## 3 Make questions with *will*.

- 1 what time / tomorrow evening's concert / start? .....
- 2 when / you and the family / get back from Paris? .....
- 3 you / be / here tomorrow? .....
- 4 you and your mother / be / here tomorrow? .....
- 5 where / you / be / this evening? .....
- 6 the children / have enough money / for the journey? .....
- 7 how soon / you know / the answer? .....
- 8 John and Susan / want / to play golf tomorrow? .....

NOTE: After *I* and *we*, some people say *shall* instead of *will*. The meaning is the same; *will* is more common in modern English.

Contractions: *I shall* → *I'll*    *we shall* → *we'll* etc    *shall not* → *shan't*

→ For *shall* in offers, see page 86.

## will: predicting *I think it will rain tomorrow.*

We use **will** + infinitive to **predict** – to say things that we **think**, **guess** or **know** about the **future**, or to ask questions about the future.

*I think it **will** snow tomorrow.*      *Be quick, or you'll **miss** your train.*

*Ann **won't** be here this evening.*      *When **will** you **know** your exam results?*

- 1 These are sentences from real conversations. Put in forms of **will** with expressions from the box. (C: the speaker used a contraction: 'll or won't.)

change	not snow	start	tell	go to sleep soon
--------	----------	-------	------	------------------

- 1 You make me so unhappy: I ..... crying in a moment. (C)
- 2 Do you think that all this money ..... your life?
- 3 It ..... tonight, will it, John? (C)
- 4 And they said 'Benjamin's tired, he .....' (C)
- 5 She ..... you how to do it.

We usually say *I don't think ... will*, NOT *I think ... won't*.

*I don't think she'll be late.* (NOT USUALLY *I think she won't be late.*)

- 2 What do you think will happen? Make your own predictions, with *I think* or *I don't think*.

► *I think* ..... it *will rain* ..... tomorrow. (*rain*)

► *I don't think* ..... I'll *get* ..... money in the post tomorrow. (*get*)

1 ..... it ..... tomorrow. (*snow*)

2 ..... I ..... a letter from America tomorrow. (*get*)

3 ..... I ..... rich in ten years. (*be*)

4 ..... I ..... famous in ten years. (*be*)

5 ..... people ..... English everywhere in the year 2100. (*speak*)

- 3 GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY: giving directions

Complete the letter. Put 'll with the verbs and put in the words from the box.  
Use a dictionary if necessary.

apple trees	bridge	door	house	key	old house	the road ✓	great time
-------------	--------	------	-------	-----	-----------	------------	------------

Dear Pamela and Simon

To find the house: when you get to Llanbrig, drive through the town and take

► *the road* ..... for Caernarvon. After about 6 km, you (*pass*) ► *'ll pass* ..... an

1 ..... on the left. Immediately after that, you (*come to*) 2 ..... a

bridge. Turn left after the 3 .....; very soon you (*come to*) 4 .....

a crossroads. Go left again, and you (*see*) 5 ..... our 6 ..... on the

right in about 300m. You (*recognise*) 7 ..... it because it's got a green

8 ..... and four 9 ..... You (*find*) 10 ..... the

11 ..... under a mat outside the back door.

Enjoy your holiday. I'm sure you (*have*) 12 ..... a 13 .....

Love

Susan

→ For present tenses after *if*, *when* etc (*I'll phone you if/when I have time*), see pages 221 and 229.

# will: deciding, refusing, promising I'll answer it.

We can use **will** when we **decide** or **agree** to do things, and when we talk about **refusing** (saying 'no') and **promising**. We **don't** use the **simple present** in these cases.

OK, I really **will** stop smoking. She **won't** speak to me. I'll phone you. (NOT ~~+phone you.~~)

Things can 'refuse'.

The car **won't** start. This pen **won't** write.

We often use **will** at the moment when we decide something.

'There's someone at the door.' 'I'll go.' (NOT ~~+go.~~) 'That's the phone.' 'I'll answer it.'

## 1 Put in words from the box with *will* or *won't*.

do go shopping go to bed ✓ help start stop tell ✓ wash

- ▶ I'm tired. I think I ~~will go to bed~~...
- ▶ I don't know what he wants.  
He ~~won't tell~~ us.
- 1 I ..... the cups; can you dry them?
- 2 'Can somebody post my letters?'  
'I ..... it.'
- 3 'My motorbike ..... 'No petrol?'
- 4 The baby ..... crying. Can you sing to her?
- 5 'There's no food in the house.'  
'I .....'
- 6 'I can't move this table.' 'I ..... you.'

## 2 It's time to change your life. Look at the ideas in the box and write six promises with *will* or *won't* – the most important first.

always think before I speak be nice to everybody drive too fast  
fall in love every week go for a walk every day go to bed early  
learn another language / a musical instrument read more relax  
smile at everybody smoke study English every day talk more slowly  
talk to strangers think about myself too much work harder (your own promise)

- ▶ I'll ~~talk more slowly~~..... 3 .....
- ▶ I ~~won't drive too fast~~..... 4 .....
- 1 ..... 5 .....
- 2 ..... 6 .....

## 3 GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY: useful expressions with *I'll*

Look at the expressions in the box. Use a dictionary if necessary.  
Then circle the best answers.

I'll think about it. I'll see. (= 'I'll think about it.') (I'll) see you tomorrow/later.  
(I'll) see you. I'll give you a ring/call. (= 'I'll phone you.') I'll tell you tomorrow/later.

- 1 'Can I use your car?' A 'I'll see.' B 'I'll see you.'
- 2 'When do you want to play tennis?' A 'I'll see you tomorrow.' B 'I'll tell you tomorrow.'
- 3 'I've got to go now.' A 'I'll see you.' B 'I'll think about it.'
- 4 'Would you like to come dancing with me?' A 'I'll think about it.' B 'I'll see you later.'
- 5 'Can we talk about it some more?' A 'I'll give you a ring.' B 'I'll see you.'
- 6 'Goodbye now.' A 'See you tomorrow.' B 'I'll see.'

# which future? *will*, *going to* or present progressive?

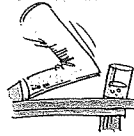
There are some differences between these three ways of talking about the future. The differences are not always important; often we can use two or three different forms to talk about the same thing.

## PREDICTIONS

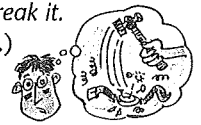
*Going to*: we can see the future in the present: we see things coming or starting.

*Will*: we think or believe things about the future.

Look out! You're *going to* break that glass!  
(I can see it now.)



Don't give him a watch – he'll break it.  
(I think so, because I know him.)



### 1 Circle the best form.

- Mary (is going to) / *will* have a baby.      3 Look – Andy *is going to* / *will* fall off his bike!
- 1 Perhaps we *are going to* / *will* meet again one day.      4 I think you *are going to* / *will* love Scotland.
- 2 Be careful, or you *are going to* / *will* fall.      5 Look at those clouds: it's *going to* / *will* rain.

## DECISIONS

*Will*: we are making decisions.

*Going to*: decisions are already made.

'We've got a letter from Jan.' 'OK, I'll answer it.'

'There are a lot of letters to answer.' 'I know. I'm *going to* do them all on Tuesday.'

### 2 Put in *I'll* or *I'm going to*.

- I've decided. ...~~I'm going to~~..... stop smoking.
- 1 'I don't want to cook tonight.' 'All right, then. .... cook.'
- 2 'I haven't got any money.' 'No? OK. .... pay.'
- 3 'Do you want to go out tonight?' 'No, .... wash my hair.'
- 4 'Those trousers are dirty.' 'Really? Oh, yes, they are. .... wash them.'
- 5 'Is Ann eating with us?' 'Wait a minute. .... ask her.'

## PLANS

*Going to* and the present progressive are often both possible when we talk about plans. We use the present progressive mostly for fixed plans with a definite time and/or place.

I'm *going to* see Ann some time soon.

I'm *meeting* Pat at the theatre at 8.00.

I think John's *going to* study biology.

Sarah's *starting* university on September 17th.

### 3 In three of these sentences, the present progressive is possible. Which three? Rewrite them with the present progressive.

Jack is going to arrive at 4.00.    I'm going to learn Spanish one of these days.  
I'm going to fly to Glasgow tomorrow.    Al's going to tell me about his problems.  
We're going to spend next week in Ireland.    Are you going to answer those letters?

- 1 .....  
2 .....  
3 .....



# simple present for future     *Our train leaves at 8.10.*

We can use the **simple present** to talk about **timetables**, cinema/theatre **programmes** and **dates**.

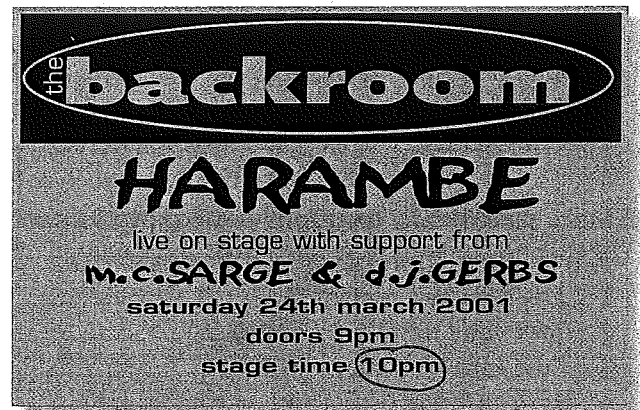
*Our train leaves at 8.10.     What time does your flight arrive?     The film starts at 7.30.  
My birthday is on a Tuesday this year.*

## 1 Make sentences.

- ▶ The flight / leave / at 9.30 ☐ ..... *The flight leaves at 9.30.*
- ▶ What time / the film / start ☐ ..... *What time does the film start?*
- ▶ This bus / stop / at Mill Road ☐ ..... *This bus doesn't stop at Mill Road.*
- 1 The next lesson / start / at 2.00 ☐ .....
- 2 This term / end / on March 12th ☐ .....
- 3 When / the concert / finish ☐ .....
- 4 We / have / a lesson / next Thursday ☐ .....
- 5 This train / stop / at Reading ☐ .....
- 6 The play / start / at 8.00 ☐ .....
- 7 What time / you / arrive / in Rome ☐ .....
- 8 The banks / close / at 3.00 tomorrow ☐ .....
- 9 The 7.15 train / stop / at every station ☐ .....

## 2 Complete the sentences under the pictures.

EIPT 1 OF 1  
 ISO  
 SITI CB  
 INVALID AFTER  
 .00X313.18.15  
 PASSENGER COUPON  
 NAME OF PASSENGER  
**JAMIESON/LINDA MISS**  
 FROM  
 LONDON HEATHROW  
 UA919 Q 04FEB DEP 08.15  
 TO  
 WASHINGTON DULLES  
 UA 7705 Q 04FEB ARR 15.45  
 GATE BOARD TIME SEAT SMOKE  
 6 07.45 15A N  
 DOCUMENT NUMBER  
**016 5778365270 0**



1 The flight .....  
at .....

2 The concert ..... at .....

Operator	WT	TE
STRATFORD-upon-AVON		1145
Warwick		1212
Leamington Spa		1217
Banbury		1236
Kings Sutton		...
Heyford		...
Tackley		1245
Oxford	arr	1258

3 The train ..... at Oxford  
at .....

→ For simple present after *if, when* etc, see pages 229 and 221.

# test yourself future

## 1 Write the contracted forms.

► I am going to ... *I'm going to* .....

1 I will .....

2 She will .....

3 It will not .....

## 2 Make statements (S), questions (Q) or negative sentences (N) with *going to*.

► John / start work / tomorrow **S** *John is going to start work tomorrow.*

1 Mary / phone / this evening **Q** .....

2 I / stop / smoking **S** .....

3 Peter / marry / his boss **S** .....

4 It / rain **S** .....

5 I / cook steak / this evening **S** .....

6 When / you / have a haircut **Q** .....

7 When / you and your wife / come and see us **Q** .....

## 3 Make statements, questions or negative sentences with *will*.

1 I / be / here next week **S** .....

2 We / have / enough money for a holiday **S** .....

3 Where / I find / the key **Q** .....

4 John / pass / his exams **S** .....

5 I think / the train / late **S** .....

6 all this money / change your life **Q** .....

## 4 Make statements, questions or negative sentences with the present progressive.

► When / you / leave **Q** *When are you leaving?*

1 I / see / Andrew tonight **S** .....

2 How / you / travel to Ireland **Q** .....

3 I / use / the car tomorrow **S** .....

4 John and Sylvia / stay / with us tomorrow **S** .....

5 What time / the people from London / arrive **Q** .....

## 5 Circle the best form.

1 Ann *is going to* / *will* have a baby.

2 Perhaps I *will see* / *am seeing* you again one day.

3 'There's someone at the door.' 'I *go*.' / 'I'll *go*.'

4 I promise I *tell* / I'll *tell* you tomorrow.

5 I *will see* / *am seeing* the doctor tomorrow at 10.30.

6 Look - Joe *is going to* / *will* show us something interesting.

7 'I don't want to drive.' 'OK. I'm *going to* / I'll *drive*.'

8 'Shall we go out?' 'No, I'll / I'm *going to* wash my clothes.'

9 I think I'm *taking* / I'll *take* guitar lessons one day.