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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## 6 Minute Grammar

### Will, going to, might, be likely to



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*This is not a word-for-word transcript*

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#### Catherine

Hello, and welcome to 6 Minute Grammar with me, Catherine.

#### Finn

And me, Finn. In this programme, we're bringing you four different phrases that we use to talk about the future.

#### Catherine

That's right, we're looking at **will**, **going to**, **might** and **be likely to**.

#### Finn

We'll tell you when we use each one...

#### Catherine

We'll look at their forms...

#### Finn

And there'll be a quiz to test what you've learned. Let's get started. Catherine, can you give us an example sentence with **will**:

#### Catherine

I can Finn. My example sentence is: I will be 29 years old next Tuesday.

#### Finn

That's amazing. I thought it was Wednesday. It's my birthday next Tuesday, too. **I'm going to be 28.**

#### Catherine

Really?!

#### Finn

No, it was just an example with **going to**!

**Catherine**

And mine was just an example with **will**.

**Finn**

So, for something we know that will happen for certain, we can use **will** or **going to** with an infinitive verb without to. We can often use either **will** or **going to** with no change in meaning. So I said: **I'm going to be 28**.

**Catherine**

...and I said: **I will be 29 next Tuesday**.

**Finn**

But... if we are sure that something is going to happen in the future, because of something that is happening in the present, it's best to use **going to**. And here's Neil with an example:

**Neil**

Look at that clear blue sky! It's **going to** be a lovely day.

**Catherine**

OK, so we don't usually look out of the window and say: Look at that clear blue sky! It will be a lovely day.

**Finn**

Not usually. It's usually **going to** when something happens now that makes us know what will happen later. So that's **will** and **going to**. Now, sometimes we are not so certain that something is going to happen...

**Catherine**

...and that's when we use **might** or **might not** plus an **infinitive without to**. Examples please, Neil?

**Neil**

I **might move** to New York next year. It depends on work.

We **might not come** to the party. Our daughter isn't well at the moment.

**Catherine**

We can also express future uncertainty with **be likely to** plus an **infinitive**. **Be likely to** is a bit more certain than **might**. **Neil**.

**Neil**

There's a lot of traffic. The journey **is likely to take** more than three hours.

### Catherine

Thank you. And for negatives we use, **be not likely to**, or, more often, **be unlikely to**, again, with **an infinitive**. For example:

### Neil

He hasn't trained very hard. **He's not likely to win** the race.  
It's a long way. The journey **is unlikely to take** less than three hours.

### IDENT

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### Finn

And we're talking about **will**, **going to**, **might** and **be likely to**. Let's look at questions. For **will**, **going to** and **likely to**, the word order is: **will**, **going to**, or **be likely to**, plus **subject** plus **verb**. Here are some examples.

### Neil

**Will** they **win** the election? Yes, they **will**.  
**Is he going to resign?** No, he **won't**.  
**Is she likely to pass?** Yes, she **is**.

### Catherine

We can also start with a question word:

### Neil

**When will** my order **arrive**?  
**Who will win** the World Cup?

### Finn

It's possible to ask questions with **might** plus **subject** plus **infinitive**, but you may hear questions with **Do you think** plus **subject** plus **might** plus **infinitive**, like this:

### Neil

**Do you think it might rain** later?

### Catherine

And now, it's quiz time! Question one. Which is correct? a) Jane and Joe likely to get married this year or b) Jane and Joe are likely to get married this year?

### Finn

And the answer's b) Jane and Joe are likely to get married this year. Number two. Which is correct? a) I might not to go to the cinema tonight or b) I might not go to the cinema tonight.

**Catherine**

The correct answer is b) I might not go to the cinema tonight. Number three. Which is correct? a) My birthday is likely to be on Saturday next year. Or b) My birthday will be on Saturday next year.

**Finn**

And the answer is b) My birthday will be on Saturday next year. 29 again, Catherine! That's the end of the quiz. Well done if you got those right.

**Catherine**

And that's also the end of the show. There's more about this on our website at [bbclearningenglish.com](http://bbclearningenglish.com). Join us again for more 6 Minute Grammar.

**Both**

Bye!