

Future with *Be Going To*, Present Progressive, and *Will*

Future Plans

Activity type: Chain Story

Level: High-Beginning / Low-Intermediate

Purpose: Students practice using *be going to*, the present progressive, and *will* to talk about arrangements in the near future; plans and intentions; and predictions, expectations, and certainties.

Students tell a story about someone's plans for the future using *be going to*, the present progressive, and *will*. One student starts the story, and others continue it in a logical fashion using randomly selected words and phrases.

Set-up: Small groups or pairs

Time: 10 minutes to prepare / 15 minutes to do the activity

Materials Preparation:

1. Make one copy of the Student's Page for each small group or pair.
2. Use scissors to cut out the cards ahead of time, or provide each group with scissors to cut out the cards during class.

Procedure

1. As a warm-up, have students think about events in their future (for example, getting a job, traveling, or moving), what they plan or intend to do, and what they predict or expect to happen. Ask them what events in the near future may lead to these future events. Have a few volunteers share their plans with the class.

2. Pass out a set of cards to each group or pair. If the cards have not already been cut out, have students cut them out now. Then ask students to put the word cards face up in a pile.
3. Tell students that they are going to talk about a person's plans for the future. The plans can be imaginary, or they can talk about their own plans. To begin, one student in each group picks up a card and uses the word to start a story. The next student picks up a card and uses that word to continue the story in a logical way, and so on.
4. Model the activity by choosing a card from one group's pile and using it in a sentence. Have a volunteer choose a second card and continue the story. Make sure that the student uses your first sentence as the basis for his or her sentence and uses a correct future form.
5. Have students continue the activity until the words on all the cards have been used. Ask students to save their cards for a follow-up activity. Walk around and make sure students are using correct future forms of verbs in their sentences.

Follow-up

1. Ask volunteer groups to try to remember their story and retell it to the class using the cards they have saved.
2. Have students write a paragraph about their own future plans or the plans of a person they know using the word cards.

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- 1** Work in a group. Cut out the cards. Put the cards face up in the center of the group.
- 2** One person chooses a card and uses the word to start a story about the future. The story can be about you, a person you know, or an imaginary person. Be sure to use correct future forms of verbs. Keep the card.
- 3** The next person chooses a card and continues the story, using the word on the card and a correct future form. Keep the card.
- 4** Continue as a group until you finish the story.

Example:

Student A: I'm **graduating** from the nursing program next semester.

Student B: After I graduate, I'm **going to apply** for nursing jobs.

Student C: I **will probably** find a good job at a hospital.

graduate	predict	get
apply	work	probably
travel	visit	think
definitely	buy	move