

## Grammar – Going To

### How to Use 'Going to' in English 1

**Going to** (be + going to + infinitive) is a semi-modal auxiliary verb that we use to express **future intentions / plans** (where the decision is made before speaking), **predictions** (based on present evidence), and **commands** that you have no choice but to follow:

- future intentions / plans:                    He is **going to** buy a new book tomorrow.
- predictions:                                    The cat is **going to** break that dish!
- commands:                                     You **are going to** tidy your bedroom, young man!

We generally use **going to** in informal speech. It is not a tense, but we often learn it with Future Simple as an essential elementary future form.

**Going to + infinitive** can get confused with **going to + place** (GO in present continuous), and also the verb + adverb phrase **going too**, e.g. 'I'm going to the café.' 'Yes, I'm **going too**.'

**Going to** is often pronounced **gonna** (g n) – with two schwa sounds. The phrase is contracted because it consists of function words. The preceding auxiliary verbs should be contracted too, e.g. '**He's** gonna buy...'. Important: if you stress **going to** (as a future form) the listener may believe that you are starting a sentence with main verb GO.

We can discuss **going to** with the following four forms:

- |              |  |   |
|--------------|--|---|
| A. going to  | + <b>place</b> (GO = main verb in pr/con)    | I'm going to the <b>museum</b> tomorrow.            |
| B. going to  | + <b>infinitive</b> (going to = future form) | I'm going to <b>visit</b> the museum tomorrow.      |
| C. gonna     | + <b>infinitive</b> (going to = future form) | I'm gonna <b>visit</b> the museum tomorrow.         |
| D. going too | GO + adverb (end of clause)                  | 'I'm going to the museum.' 'I'm <b>going too</b> .' |

Read each sentence below and decide if it is correct or incorrect. If it is incorrect, write it correctly on the line. Then write the use: **intention** (I), **prediction** (P), or **command** (C), and the form A-D (above):

	Correction (if necessary):	Use:	Form:
1. I'm going drive to York tomorrow.	I'm going to drive to York tomorrow.	I	B
2. The water's going to boil over the pan.	_____	_____	_____
3. The video is gonna to finish.	_____	_____	_____
4. I'm going drive to York tomorrow.	_____	_____	_____
5. It's going to rain.	_____	_____	_____
6. You're going too sit here till you finish the test!	_____	_____	_____
7. We're going to go for a walk.	_____	_____	_____
8. 'Lia's gonna buy a new car.' 'I'm going too.'	_____	_____	_____
9. It's going to raining.	_____	_____	_____
10. I'm going to York tomorrow.	_____	_____	_____
11. It's gonna to rain.	_____	_____	_____
12. I'm going to drive to York tomorrow.	_____	_____	_____
13. We're gonna go to Florida in the spring.	_____	_____	_____
14. The video is gonna finish.	_____	_____	_____
15. 'We're going to Florida.' 'I'm gonna too.'	_____	_____	_____
16. The water's gonna boil over the pan.	_____	_____	_____
17. Lia's gonna too buy a new car.	_____	_____	_____
18. We're gonna go for a walk.	_____	_____	_____
19. We're gonna to Florida in the spring.	_____	_____	_____
20. The water's going to over the pan boil.	_____	_____	_____

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Answers:

	<i>Correction (if necessary):</i>	<i>Use:</i>	<i>Form:</i>
1. I'm going drive to York tomorrow.	I'm going to drive to York tomorrow.	I	B
2. The water's going to boil over the pan.	<i>Correct</i>	P	B
3. The video is gonna to finish.	The video is gonna finish.	P	C
4. I'm going drive to York tomorrow.	I'm going to drive to York tomorrow.	I	B
5. It's going to rain.	<i>Correct</i>	P	B
6. You're going too sit here till you finish the test!	You're going to sit here till you finish...	C	B
7. We're going to go for a walk.	<i>Correct</i>	I	B
8. 'Lia's gonna buy a new car.' 'I'm going too.'	... 'I'm going to too*.'	I	C / B
9. It's going to raining.	It's going to rain.	P	B
10. I'm going to York tomorrow.	<i>Correct</i>	I	A
11. It's gonna to rain.	It's gonna rain.	P	C
12. I'm going to drive to York tomorrow.	<i>Correct</i>	I	B
13. We're gonna go to Florida in the spring.	<i>Correct</i>	I	C
14. The video is gonna finish.	<i>Correct</i>	P	C
15. 'We're going to Florida.' 'I'm gonna too.'	... 'I'm going too.'	I	A / D
16. The water's gonna boil over the pan.	<i>Correct</i>	P	C
17. Lia's gonna too buy a new car.	Lia's gonna buy a new car.	I	C
18. We're gonna go for a walk.	<i>Correct</i>	I	C
19. We're gonna to Florida in the spring.	We're going to Florida in the spring.	I	A
20. The water's going to over the pan boil.	The water's going to boil over the pan.	P	B

\*short form of: 'I'm going to *buy a new car too.*'