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Making predictions; *may* and *might*
going to and will

FUNCTIONS AND GRAMMAR

Making predictions; *may* and *might*

Certain

I'm certain/sure he'll be here at nine tomorrow.

He's certain/sure to be here at nine tomorrow.

Probable

She'll probably arrive on time.

She probably won't be late.

Possible

I may/might be late tomorrow.

It's possible that I won't get there on time

Maybe/perhaps I'll call and see some friends.

May is a little more sure than might. May, might and will are modal auxiliary verbs.

(See Lesson 16.)

Going to and will

You use (to be) going to to talk about things which are arranged or sure to happen, and for decisions which you made before the moment of speaking.

I'm going to spend Christmas in Tenerife.

You use will to talk about decisions you make at the moment of speaking.

'We'll stop for today,' he said.

1 Choose the correct verb form.

- 1 I *won't/might not* be in at nine tomorrow as I have a dentist's appointment at that time.
- 2 There are no buses after midnight, and it's too far to walk so I *may/will* take a taxi.
- 3 She *is going to/might* come and stay at Christmas or she may stay at home.
- 4 I'm thinking of seeing some friends tonight, so I definitely *won't/may not* be back at seven.
- 5 They're *going to/'ll* go to the theatre tonight. They've got tickets.

2 Think of three things which will certainly happen tomorrow, three things which will probably happen, and three things which will possibly happen. Use expressions from the box above.

3 Write down three decisions about things you'll do tomorrow. Use *will*.

I'll buy an English newspaper.

Now tell other students about your decisions.

Use *going to*.

I'm going to buy an English newspaper.

