

Will / going to

Here are some ideas you can use to practice “will” and “going to” with your Pre-intermediate students. Some students find it difficult to understand why there are so many ways to express the action in the future. These activities are suitable for group and one-on-one classes (a teacher will be a partner) and are aimed at developing speaking skills.

Task 1

Read the sentences. Chose when we use "will" and "be going to"

1. Mum: Helen, I want to make a cake but we don't have any milk left.

Helen: I will go to the shop and buy it.

2. He is a good student. I think, he will pass the exam.

3. Will you close the door, please?

4. I am good at maths, I will help you with your homework.

5. You cook the lunch, I will look after the children.

6. The band will release their third album in March.

7. When you have children, you will understand what I mean.

8. It's my birthday tomorrow. Will you come to the party?

9. A: What are your plans for tonight?

B: I'm going to watch a movie at home.

10. Look at the clouds. It is going to rain.

We use “will”:

- when we talk about ‘certain’ future events.
- to confirm intentions, decisions, arrangements, agreements.
- to express predictions based on evidence in the present situation.
- when we decide to do something at the time of speaking.
- for requests, invitations and offers.
- for future prediction, fortune-telling style, sometimes you can’t give 100% guarantee it will happen.
- to talk about a planned activity for future.
- for prediction, based on your opinion, usually with the verbs: believe, expect , hope, think, wonder, I’m sure, I’m afraid ...etc.

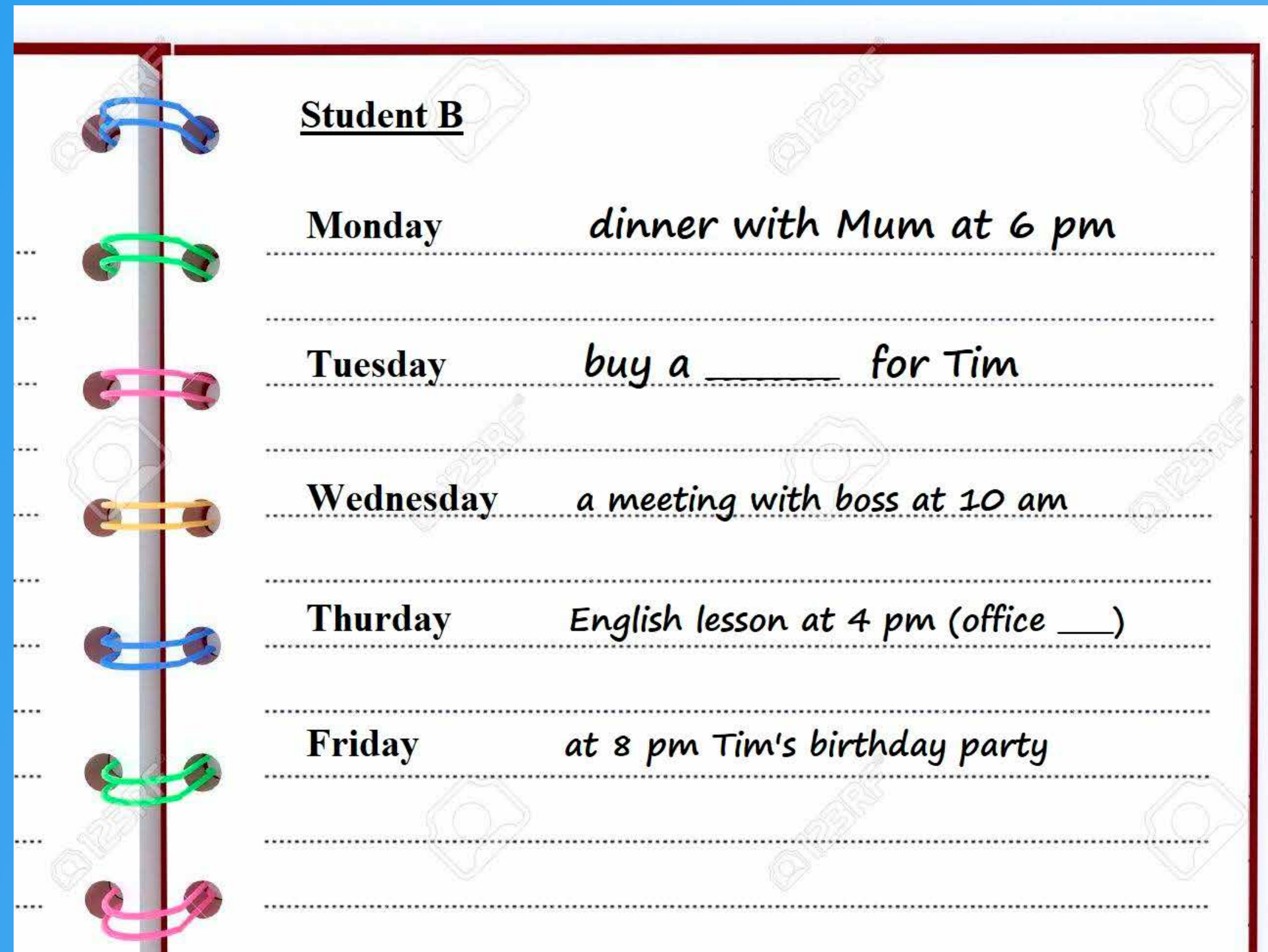
We use “be going to”:

- when we talk about ‘certain’ future events.
- to confirm intentions, decisions, arrangements, agreements.
- to express predictions based on evidence in the present situation.
- when we decide to do something at the time of speaking.
- for requests, invitations and offers.
- for future prediction, fortune-telling style, sometimes you can’t give 100% guarantee whether it will happen.
- to talk about a planned activity for future.
- for prediction, based on your opinion, usually with the verbs: believe, expect , hope, think, wonder, I’m sure, I’m afraid ...etc.

Match each sentence with the rule.

Task 2

Look at Ann's diary. Work with your partner to complete the gaps.



Student B

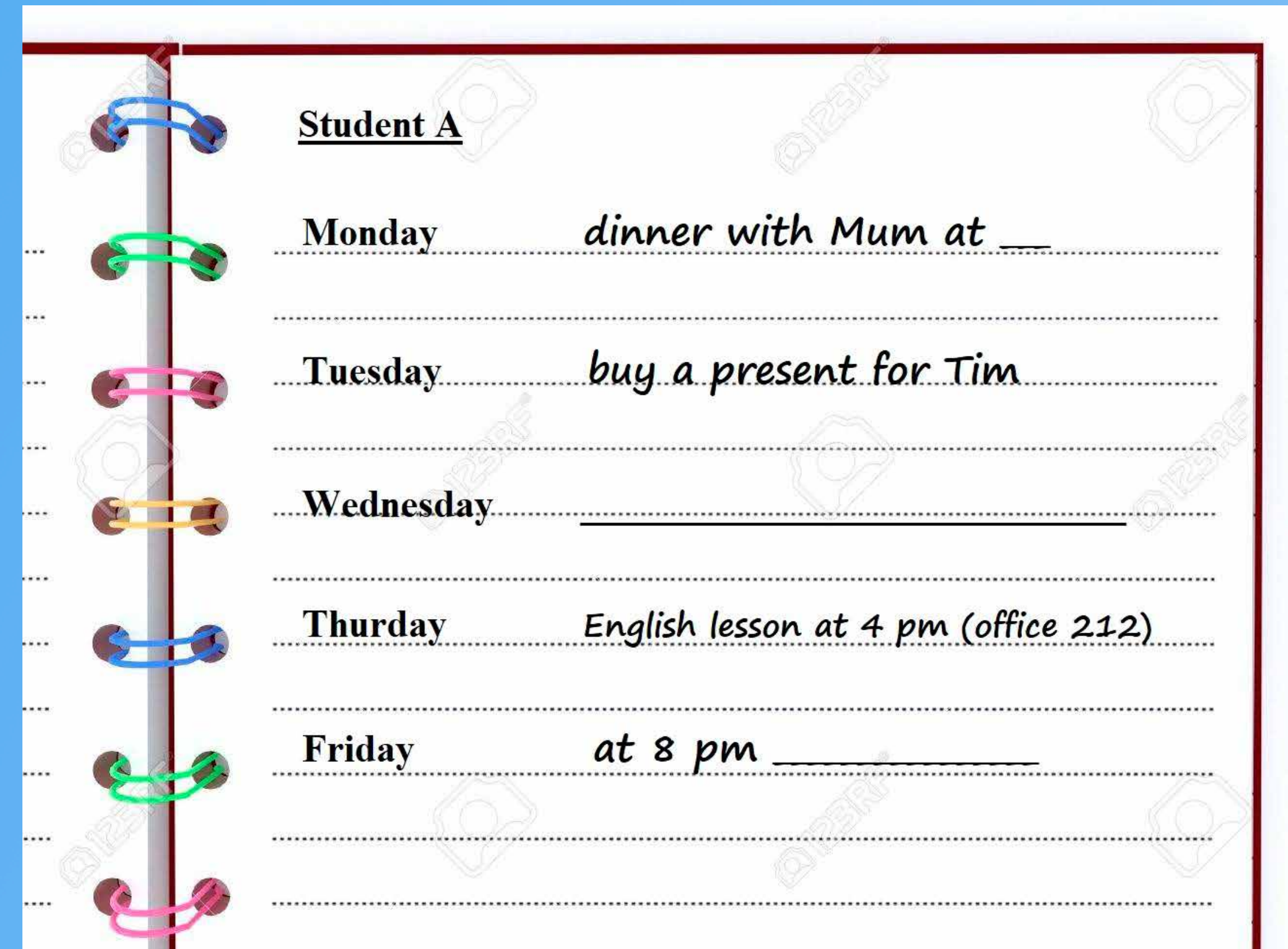
Monday dinner with Mum at 6 pm

Tuesday buy a _____ for Tim

Wednesday a meeting with boss at 10 am

Thursday English lesson at 4 pm (office _____)

Friday at 8 pm Tim's birthday party



Student A

Monday dinner with Mum at _____

Tuesday buy a present for Tim

Wednesday _____

Thursday English lesson at 4 pm (office 212)

Friday at 8 pm _____

Task 3

Look at the picture. What is happening? What do you think will happen next?

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



Watch the video and check your guesses:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gq0jfzgvvrM>

6.



Task 4

Toss a coin and move your position marker. Discuss the questions in pairs, use “will” or “be going to”:

START	What are you going to do after this English lesson?	What are your plans for tonight? for the weekend? for next holiday?	Where do you see yourself in ten or twenty years from now?	
	How will you use English in future?	What book are you reading now? What are you going to read next?	What do you think life in 3000 will be like?	
	Do you believe in fortune teller or horoscope? Why (not)?	What will happen if you become very rich?	What do you think the weather will be tomorrow?	
FINISH	What will cities be like 50 years from now? (transport, entertainment, work, shopping, crime)	What future events are you looking forward to?	What changes in future would you be happy to see?	

Keys:

We use will:

- when we talk about 'certain' future events. (6)
- to confirm intentions, decisions, arrangements, agreements. (5)
- when we decide to do something at the time of speaking. (1)
- for requests(3), invitations (8) and offers. (4)
- for future prediction, fortune-telling style, sometimes you can't give 100% guarantee it will happen. (7)
- for prediction, based on your opinion, usually with the verbs: believe, expect, hope, think, wonder, I'm sure, I'm afraid ...etc (2)

We use "be going to":

- to talk about a planned activity for future. (9)
- to express predictions based on evidence in the present situation. (10)