Lesson Plan: "Will" vs. "Going to"

LEVEL	TIME	FOCUS
Beginner/Intermediate (A2-B2)	45–60 minutes	Grammar – future tenses

Objective

- To introduce and practice the use of "will" and "going to" for future intentions and predictions.
- To help students distinguish between spontaneous decisions and planned actions.

1. Warm-up (10 minutes)

Activity: Future Talk

Ask students:

- "What are you doing this weekend?"
- "What do you think the weather will be like tomorrow?"

Objective: Activate prior knowledge and introduce context for future forms.

2. Presentation (10 minutes)

Explain the difference:

Structure	Use	Example
Will + base verb	Spontaneous decision, promise, prediction without evidence	“I’ll help you with that.” / “It’ll rain tomorrow.”
Be going to + base verb	Planned intention, prediction based on evidence	“I’m going to visit my grandma.” / “Look at those clouds! It’s going to rain.”

Give more examples in context:

- **At a restaurant:**

Waiter: "What would you like to eat?"

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Customer: "I **will have** the soup, please." (Decision made right now.)

- **With a plan:**

"I'm **going to meet** Sarah at 3 PM." (It's arranged.)

- **Looking at the sky:**

"Those clouds are dark. It's **going to rain**." (Prediction based on what you see.)

- **A general future idea:**

"I think it **will be** a great party." (A personal opinion without evidence.)

Tip: Use visuals or short skits to show the difference. E.g., one person sees someone drop a book and says, "*I'll pick it up*" (spontaneous decision).

3. Guided Practice (15 minutes)

Activity: Complete the Sentences

Give students a worksheet or slideshow:

Examples:

1. I think our team ____ win the match. *(will)*
2. She ____ start a new job next week. *(is going to)*
3. "I'm thirsty." "I ____ get you some water." *(will)*

Then, do a quick pair check and correct as a class.

4. Controlled Practice (10 minutes)

Activity: Dialogue Creation

In pairs, students create short dialogues using both "will" and "going to."

Example Prompt: One student forgot their umbrella. The other makes a decision on the spot.

Student A: "It's raining and I forgot my umbrella."

Student B: "Don't worry, I'll lend you mine."

Student A: "Thanks! I'm going to buy one after school."

5. Production (10 minutes)

Activity: Future Predictions Game

Each student writes 3 predictions about the future — one with "will" and two with "going to."

E.g., "I'm going to travel to Japan." / "My friend will get married soon."

Share and discuss as a class.

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6. Wrap-Up and Homework (5 minutes)

Review:

- Ask: "What’s the difference between "will" and "going to"?"
- Assign: Write 5 sentences — 2 with "will" (predictions), 3 with "going to" (plans).

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