

Will - Would



Be Going to - Was Going to



Use "will," and "be going to" to talk about the future.

Hi! My name is Bobby and I'm seven years old! I loooooove playing baseball!

When I grow up I _____ play professional ball! I _____

join the Yankees! Maybe I _____ be a first baseman! Yeah! Or,

maybe I _____ be a pitcher! That would be great too!

My dad said next week he _____ take me swimming at the lake but I'm scared of water. Besides, the lake is full of water monsters and maybe one of them _____ eat me! I hope dad _____ take me to the park instead so we can knock a ball around.

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Use "would," and "was going to" to talk about the future in the past.

Ahoy there! My name is Robert! Remember me? I'm twenty seven years old now!

When I was a kid I thought I _____ become a professional

baseball player. I thought I _____ join the yankees and that

maybe I _____ be a first baseman! Ha! I had a lot of crazy

ideas back then, like the lake monster. I was scared of water and I thought a

monster _____ eat me if I went swimming in the lake!

A few years ago I joined the Navy because I love sailing on the ocean! I still

dream about the future though and one day I _____ be the captain of

my own merchant ship!



Will - Would



Be Going to - Was Going to



Use "will," and "be going to" to talk about the future.

Hi! My name is Bobby and I'm seven years old! I loooooove playing baseball!

When I grow up **I'm going to** play professional ball! **I'm going to**

join the Yankees! Maybe **I'll** be a first baseman! Yeah! Or,

maybe **I'll** be a pitcher! That would be great too!

My dad said next week he's **going to** take me swimming at the lake but I'm scared of water. Besides, the lake is full of water monsters and maybe one of them **will** eat me! I hope dad **will** take me to the park instead so we can knock a ball around.

Use "would," and "was going to" to talk about the future in the past.

Ahoy there! My name is Robert! Remember me? I'm twenty seven years old now!

When I was a kid I thought I **was going to** become a professional

baseball player. I thought I **was going to** join the Yankees and that

maybe I **would** be a first baseman! Ha! I had a lot of crazy

ideas back then, like the lake monster. I was scared of water and I thought a

monster **would** eat me if I went swimming in the lake!

A few years ago I joined the Navy because I love sailing on the ocean! I still

dream about the future though and one day **I'm going to** be the captain of

my own merchant ship!



Will / would - be going to / was going to

This is one of the harder patterns for students to distinguish. There is something of a difference between the use of will and be going to and this sheet goes one step further by using them in the past as well. For some that contrast might actually make it clearer.

I make it a point to be consistent in the teaching and usage of these terms all the time which makes it a bit simpler. I use “be going to” for things which I strongly think or know are going to come true or for which I have planned. I use “will” for sudden decisions and some speculations.

How to use the worksheet.

1. Students talk about the future, and some future dreams.
2. Use the first part of the worksheet to practice looking at Bobby’s dreams. (1 and 2 could be reversed.)
3. Students discuss what their dreams were in the past, what they wanted to be when they were children.
4. Use the second part of the worksheet to practice looking at how Bobby has changed over the years and what he says about his past dreams.

Note:

This isn’t the kind of thing students are just going to learn and use in one class and suddenly never make a mistake again. Students need constant and consistent exposure and usage over time. This worksheet is probably best used with students you notice misusing patterns and who need a little reinforcement.

It’s best to give a series of examples of each pattern for students to drill before giving them the story. This way the story makes perfect sense.

Or, do the reverse and give them the story and then the drills.