

B4. Fear of flying

be going to (intentions and predictions)



Mr. Harrison needed to fly from London to New York. He was afraid of flying but the journey was important for his job so he bought a plane ticket from a travel agent.

At the airport, he tried not to be nervous about his first flight.

'I'm **not going to worry** about it', he told himself 'Everything **is going to be** fine. I'm going to get on the plane, I'm **going to go** to sleep for a few hours and when I wake up I'm **going to be** in New York.'

The plane took off and after an hour in the air, there was a loud noise. Mr. Harrison heard one of the flight attendants say to the other, 'Oh no! That sounds really bad.'

Mr. Harrison called the flight attendant over and asked, 'Excuse me, but is everything **going to be OK?**'

'Oh, don't worry about a thing, sir. Everything **is going to be** just fine. We're **going to arrive** a little later in New York, but that's all. Just fasten your seatbelt and go back to sleep.'

Mr. Harrison tried to go back to sleep again but only ten minutes later, there was screaming and shouting from other passengers as they pointed out of the window.

'The engines are on fire! We're **going to crash!** We're all **going to die!**'

The pilot opened the door of the cockpit and told the passengers to keep calm. He was smiling and his voice was relaxed so Mr. Harrison felt a little better. The pilot walked to the emergency exit of the plane and took some packages from under a seat. He gave some to the flight attendants and took one for himself.

Mr. Harrison was now very worried and so he asked an attendant, 'Excuse me, but are those packages parachutes? You said we had nothing to worry about!'

'No, sir. Don't worry about a thing. We're **going to get** some help.'

Grammar: *be going to* used for intentions and predictions

You can use **be going to + verb** to make predictions about the future, particularly when your prediction is based on the evidence of your senses or experience.

*Look at those clouds. It's **going to rain** soon.*

*Your car engine is making a bad noise. It's **going to break down**.*

You can use **be going to + verb** to talk about things you have arranged to do in the future.

*I'm **going to get** on the plane.*

*I'm **going to visit** my cousins on Saturday.*

Match the evidence with the predictions.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. He looks very tired. His eyes are closing. | A. He's going to drop them. |
| 2. He's carrying a tray with a lot of glasses on it. He isn't looking where he's walking. | B. He's going to miss it. |
| 3. His plane leaves at nine but he hasn't arrived at the airport yet. The time is 8.58. | C. He's going to win. |
| 4. He forgot to take his jacket with him and now it's just started snowing. | D. He's going to fall asleep. |
| 5. He is the fastest runner in the race. Everyone else is metres behind him. | E. He's going to be hungry. |
| 6. He forgot to take his lunch with him and there's nowhere to buy anything. | F. He's going to get cold. |

Choose a verb to complete these sentences. Use *be going to + verb*.

get take give make do keep

7. Oh no! It's raining. I forgot my umbrella so I _____ wet.

8. I'm sure you _____ your best in the exam.

9. Dave makes me so angry. I don't know how I _____ calm.
10. The builders are coming on Monday so I'm afraid they _____ a noise while they're working.
11. I'm excited about my trip to Rome next week. I _____ my ticket on the internet tonight.
12. I _____ lots of photographs while I'm there so I can show everyone where I've been.

Vocabulary exercises

Choose the correct verb to complete these sentences.

point **scream** **fasten** **take** **worry**

1. The plane doesn't _____ off until ten o'clock.
2. Don't _____ about a thing!
3. When Suzy saw the spider she started to _____.
4. Can you _____ out interesting places on the journey?
5. Please _____ your seat belt.

Choose the correct preposition to complete the sentences.

6. I could see from the smoke that the forest was **at / in / on** fire.
7. Are you afraid **of / for / to** flying?
8. I felt quite nervous **to / about / with** my first day at university.
9. It's nothing important. Just go **back / out / away** to sleep.
10. You've got nothing to worry **on / about / for**. Everything's going to be just fine.

Choose a word to make a compound noun.

ticket **belt** **agent** **exit** **attendant**

11. emergency _____
12. flight _____
13. plane _____
14. travel _____
15. seat _____

ANSWERS

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Grammar exercises:

1D, 2A, 3B, 4F, 5C, 6E, 7. I'm going to get wet, 8. you're going to do your best, 9. I'm going to keep calm, 10. they're going to make a noise, 11. I'm going to buy, 12. I'm going to take

Vocabulary exercises: *1 take, 2 worry, 3 scream, 4 point, 5 fasten, 6 on, 7 of, 8 about, 9 back, 10 about, 11 emergency exit, 12 flight attendant, 13 plane ticket, 14 travel agent, 15 seat belt*