

Situations. Talking about Holiday Plans (1)

Language Points: Futures, T0 & T1 Cond., Inf/Ger, Preps, Comparat.

US American English (International English) with vocabulary influence of British English (European English) in the choice of "holiday" instead of "vacation"

Key to typography

[Square brackets] indicate the item is not for Elementary students, but for higher levels. Tenses in bold with auxiliaries in blue.

boxed item: nonpersonal form of the verb, here, infinitives and gerunds.

On the street (US) / In the street (UK)

Jenny: Hello, Mark! Where **are you going**?¹

Mark: Hi, Jenny! I'm **going**¹ to the travel agent's. I'm **going to** book a trip!

Jenny: Oh! Where **are you going to**?² [Where to?]

Mark: To Madeira! It's an island in Portugal.

Jenny: Wow! You'll³ be like Robinson Crusoe...

Mark: More like Tarzan and Jane! I'm **going**² with Cathy.

Jenny: And the children?

Mark: The kids **are going to** stay at a summer camp for four weeks! It's in an Eco-Village.

Jenny: And what's that? What are they **going to** do there?

Mark: They **are going to** learn **eco-friendly production and manufacturing**, **how to build** ecobuildings and **how to get** **eco-friendly sources of energy**. They **are going to** learn **how to live and work** in a community, and about vegetarians and vegans. In short, they **are going to** learn **how to build** sustainable communities in an abandoned village in Spain!

(Check out <http://www.glorianietophotosite.com/ecovillages/>)

Jenny: That sounds amazing!! And how much is the camp?

Mark: It's for free. The kids **are going to** take money for their own expenses, & I suppose they'll share most of it with the community... It's up to them, really! Jenny: They **are going to** learn a lot of things!!

Mark: That's right. And what about you? **Are you going**² on a holiday this summer?

Jenny: In the end... yes! I **couldn't** afford a proper holiday, **but –** the other day we **visited** some friends and we **talked about renting** a house in Greece!

Mark: Hey, that's an excellent idea!

Jenny: We're 8. The house's got 3 bedrooms & a 50-square-metre sitting-room. So it'll³ be OK [we'll manage]. We're **going to** take two sleeping bags & **we're going to** share the house & food expenses. That's much cheaper!

Mark: And great fun, too! **Are you going to** visit the ruins?

¹ Present Cont.: a present in progress, literally. "Where are you going now?"

² Present Cont. as Fut. & instead of "Going to", for Plans: A plan using the present cont. (special use), instead of "Where are you going to go?" For Advanced students: By the way, in the USA "Where are you headed?" is more common. Reminder: There's a future-in-the-past! = I wasn't going to go ("going to") & I wasn't going (past cont.)

³ "Will" for prediction, for "imagining a future scenario of actions/events"

Jenny: Yes! And we'll go on boat trips, too, I suppose. There're a lot of islands nearby.

Mark: You're going to have a great time...

Jenny: Sharing expenses is a wonderful idea if/when you can't afford a proper holiday!

Mark: Congratulations! We'll³ do that then next year, too! Greece is a dream!

Jenny: The cradle of democracy, Art and Philosophy. I'm really excited!!

Mark: Good for you! Oh my! I have to rush now [*I've got to / Gotta rush now – also, I need to rush now, to sound kind of more polite*] – it's 20 past! See you, then! Have a lovely trip!

Jenny: OK, you too. Say hello to Cathy for me. See you!

Comments on "the futures"

We use the "Going to" Future for plans and intentions (the action is likely to happen), and the Present Continuous as Future for arrangements (the action is most likely to happen), but sometimes we use the Present Continuous instead of the "Going to" Future or Near Future. When does this happen?

- 1) This happens when the main verb (the verb you can visualize, the verb of the action, not the auxiliaries) is "go": "Where are you going to go?" ("Going to" Future) is simplified to "Where are you going?" (Present Continuous in form, but meaning of the "Going to" Future.) By extension, we can do the same with verbs of movement, like "fly" and "drive": "We're flying to Paris next week" (instead of "We're going to fly to Paris next week").
- 2) This also happens in some high occurrence sentences with "do" and "have" ("have" meaning: "have drinks or something to eat"), in two questions we make very often: "What are you going to do later / next week?" and "What are you going to have?" (in a cafeteria, bar/pub, or restaurant). These sentences are more often expressed with the Present Continuous with the same meaning: "What are you doing later?" (I suppose I'll study; I am seeing my doctor) and "What are you having?" (I'll have a beer, thanks; I'd like the steak and a salad.)

We use the "Will" Future to offer predictions, this is, when we imagine what will happen, and/or when we think or suppose that something will happen. Examples:

- Tomorrow it'll rain (I suppose / I think)
 - What are you doing later on? – I don't know. I'll study a bit (I suppose. I may do something else instead. It's not for sure)
- Compare this with:
- What are you doing later on? – I'm seeing my Ob-gyn (arrangement – it's an appointment!)
 - What are you doing later on? – I'm going to finish reading a novel. I can't wait! (plan, intention)

Remember that we can also use the "Will" Future to express a spontaneous decision for an immediate future:

- What are you having? –I'll have a coffee, thank you
- Can somebody get that?! –I'll answer it! (the phone, the intercom, the door)

Conditional clauses type 0 and type 1 – For Elementary & Pre-Intermediate students

First of all, conditional sentences include two personal verbs (verbs with their subjects). Remember also the comma when the "if" sentence comes first. Finally, consider the time clause with "When": it is like Type 1 Conditional Sentences!

Type 0. If-Present + Present

If you do this, this happens
This happens if you do this

Type 1. If-Present + "Will" Future

If this happens, this will happen
This will happen if this happens
If you do this, this will happen
This will happen if you do this

Time Clauses: When-pres. + Will-fut.

When this happens, this other thing will happen
This will happen when this other thing happens
When you do this, this will happen
This will happen when you do this

Conditional clauses type 0 and type 1 – For Intermediate & Advanced students

Type 0 and Type 1 conditional sentences can include **imperatives** or **modal verbs**. Consider:

It's a good idea if you cannot afford a proper vacation/holiday. If you cannot afford a proper vacation/holiday, it's a good idea.
Rent a house with your friends if you want to go* on a holiday this summer!
If you want to go* on a holiday this summer, rent a house with your friends!

*"Want" + a non-personal form of the verb = "want" + full infinitive, e.g. If you want to go

Compare with:

Type 0: If you have no job, you have no money! (pres-pres)

Type 1: If you don't find a job, you will run out of money soon! (pres-will)

Prepositions: in Questions & + -ing V – For Intermediate & Advanced students

- We're going on an excursion!
- Where **to?** (Where are you going to?)
- Oh, I have to take my tweezers!
- What **for?** (What do you need them for?)

--I had a big fight this morning
--Who **with?** (I had a fight with someone)

Prep + V = Prep + -ing form – this can be included in the section below Inf/G
We're talking **about** renting a house in Greece
I'm looking forward **to** seeing you! ("to" **here** is a preposition and **not** part of a full infinitive)

Comparing adjectives – For Elementary and Pre-Intermediate students

Suffixed. *Cheaper (than) = cheap (1 syllable) + -er (than)*
It's like nice (1 syllable): *nicer (than)* & two-syllable adjectives ending in –y:
sunny – sunnier (than)

Periphrastic. *More expensive (than) = ex.pen.sive (3 syllables) preceded by "more"*

We use the periphrastic construction with long adjectives (3 syllables or more) and with 2-syllable adjectives not ending in –y, & having an unstressed ending vowel, as in *clever /cléver/ -- more clever (but also, cleverer)*

Infinitives and Gerunds (2/3 non-personal forms of the verb)

The non-personal forms of verbs are: infinitive (full or bare), gerund/present participle, and past participle.

Purpose Infinitive: at the Elementary level you study that the full infinitive is the way to indicate purpose with a non-personal form of the verb (when the verb has no subject!). So if someone asks you: "**Why** are you learning English?", you might want to answer: "**To travel!**" (Para viajar)

In this dialog(ue), the boxed infinitive refers to the "**know how to**" construction. At the Elementary level you learn that "You **can**" is the same as "You know how to" (Sabes... hacer algo), e.g. "I can drive" = "I know how to drive". Well, this "**know + how to**" is "know" + "how" + a full infinitive.

Another boxed item in this dialog(ue) is "Sharing expenses". This phrase is the **subject of the sentence**. This means that an *-ing* non-personal form of the verb, here, in other words, a **gerund**, can operate like a noun, like a name. More examples: "Dancing is fun" (Subject: Dancing, Verb: is, but the subject comes from a verb)

For further information

- Find more on this on the Functional Grammar section of talkingpeople.net at http://www.talkingpeople.net/tp/func_gram/index.htm
- Useful Language at <http://www.talkingpeople.net/tp/usefullanguage/index.htm> – with audios and collections of sentences you can use in your conversations
- Post your requests on the TP public Forums at <http://www.talkingpeople.net/tp/forum/viewthread.php?tid=682> or on our Like Page on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/talkingpeople.mujeerpalabra>