

## BBC Learning English – Q & A of the Week

### About this script

Please note that this is not a word for word transcript of the programme as broadcast. In the recording and editing process changes may have been made which may not be reflected here.

### 关于台词的备注:

请注意这不是广播节目的逐字稿件。本文稿可能没有体现录制、编辑过程中对节目做出的改变。

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### Present and Future Tenses 现在/将来时

**William:** Hello and welcome to another edition of Question and Answer of the Week. I'm William Kremer.

**Li:** And I'm Yang Li. 今天的《你问我答》节目，我们要回答什么问题呢？What are we talking about today, Will?

**William:** Ah! Stop right there, Yang Laoshi!

**Li:** 怎么？我说得不对吗？

**William:** You said: "What are we talking about today?" Now, the grammar of this sentence is interesting and maybe a little bit confusing. We had this email from Che Xingzhou from Xi'an. He writes:

*An English broadcaster once said: I'm flying to Toronto next week. Why don't he use future tense? I'm really confused about it.*

**Li:** 听上去 Che Xingzhou 同学想知道为什么英语播音员说 I'm flying to Toronto 而不是 I will fly to Toronto.

**William:** To put it another way, the presenter Che heard used the present continuous tense to talk about the future, and not the future tense.

**Li:** Hmm. 可能是，提问者对英语时态的印象肯定是在表示现在发生的事情是要用现在进行时 the present continuous tense, 请听例句：

#### Examples

*Mum! Mum!*

*Just a minute! I'm talking on the phone.*

*Sorry to interrupt the meeting. Mark, a police officer is waiting for you in the lobby.*

**William:** So in both those examples the present continuous was used to describe things that are happening now. I'm talking on the phone, a police officer is waiting in the lobby. But Che, we can also use it to talk about the future.

- Li:** 这么说，我们也可以用现在进行时态来谈论将要发生的事情，对吗？**William** 你能举个例子吗？
- William:** Well, before I do that, let me just ask you something, Li. What are the different ways that you know of talking about the future?
- Li:** Well I can use the future tense, for example: "Do you think it will rain tonight?"
- William:** Yeah. Anything else?
- Li:** I can also say "going to". For example: "I'm going to take my umbrella with me when I go home."
- William:** Yes, exactly. And do you know the basic difference between the two?
- Li:** Hmm. I think so. 我想我知道，going to 表示一种计划或打算，而不是对未来的一种预测，对吗？
- William:** Yeah, that's right. So let's listen to two examples of people using 'going to' to talk about the future. Now, we wouldn't normally use the future tense with either of these examples.

#### Examples

*I'm going to drive over to my grandma's house tomorrow.  
The gas man's going to come over at four o'clock.*

- Li:** 不过，你天的问题你还没解答呢！**Che Xingzhou's** 同学的问题是询问为什么用现在进行时态来表示将要发生的事情....
- William:** Well, I was just coming to that. It's basically the same rule as using 'going to'. We use it for plans and arrangements.
- Li:** 啊，这么说，我们也可以用现在进行时来表示将要发生的事情，这和 going to 的用法差不多。
- William:** Let's listen to those examples again, but this time with the present continuous tense.

#### Examples

*I'm driving over to my grandma's house tomorrow.  
The gas man's coming over at four o'clock.*

- William:** Now we can't use the present continuous to make predictions. So for example we can't say "You are hating the movie" – we have to say "You will hate the movie later" or possibly "You're going to hate the movie later".
- Li:** OK, 清楚了。
- William:** Now there are some situations in which we are more likely to use the present continuous to talk about the future than 'going to' or any other

tense. For example, Li, it sounds more natural for me to say 'What are you doing tonight?' rather than 'What are you going to do tonight?'

**Li:** Hmm, very good point 听上去更简洁 snappier.

**William:** Exactly. And another example is: "Are you going to the cinema tonight?" That just sounds a lot better than "Are you going to go to the cinema tonight?"

**Li:** Are you coming to the pub later on, Will?

**William:** Yes I am.

**Li:** No, but... how does it sound?!

**William:** Ah, it sounds really good, yes. That's exactly what I mean. That's a good example.

**Li:** 好了, 希望以上讲解对 Che Xingzhou 同学有所帮助, 其他同学和听友呢, 如果你也有语法问题, 千万别犹豫, 你只需发个电邮就行了, 如果有录音就更好了, 我们会根据你的提问做一个《你问我答》节目。我们的邮箱是 [questions.chinaelt@bbc.co.uk](mailto:questions.chinaelt@bbc.co.uk). What are we talking about next week, Will?

**William:** Ah! Very nice grammar, Li! You'll just have to wait and see. Bye!

**Li:** Oh ok. Bye.

**William:** Bye!