

Talking about Transportation

Talk about transportation using go, went, and be going to.

1. Warm up

A. Tick/check the kinds of transportation you know.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> airplane | <input type="checkbox"/> train |
| <input type="checkbox"/> bus | <input type="checkbox"/> boat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> car | <input type="checkbox"/> motorbike |
| <input type="checkbox"/> taxi | <input type="checkbox"/> coach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> subway | <input type="checkbox"/> ferry |



Photo by Elviss Railijs Bitans

B. Decide if the words above use 'a' or 'an' and write it in the space provided.

C. Discuss the differences between the following kinds of transportation. Write an adjective to compare them.

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|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. A bicycle and a motorbike.
..... | 3. A car and a taxi.
..... |
| 2. A train and a subway.
..... | 4. A city bus and a coach.
..... |

2. Reading

A. Read the travel stories and decide which is in the past, present, and future.

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|---|---|--|
| 1. Hi! I'm Erica. <u>I am going to return</u> home for a family festival next week. It is a very important time of year in my country. We celebrate our ancestors and go to our home town. <u>I'm going to travel</u> by car this year and <u>we are going to drive</u> over 1,000 kilometers. <u>We are going to stay</u> at a really nice hotel on the way. | 2. My name is Niko. I <u>went</u> on holiday to San Francisco two weeks ago. It was a long flight, almost 12 hours, but I slept for most of it. I <u>went</u> to see the Golden Gate bridge, <u>went</u> on one of the famous trams and <u>went</u> to see the seals at Fisherman's Wharf. It was an amazing holiday and I would love to go back again. | 3. Hi! My name is James. I have an interesting journey to work. I live in France, but I work in London. Every Monday, I <u>go</u> by car in the Channel Tunnel and drive straight to the office. I stay in a hotel all week and <u>go</u> by train to work. I return home on Friday. My wife thinks I'm crazy. She <u>goes</u> to work on foot, it's only five minutes away! |
|---|---|--|

B. Answer the questions about the travel stories.

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|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. Who works and lives in different countries? | 3. Who saw some famous sites? |
| 2. Who is traveling to be with their family? | 4. Who travels for their job? |

3. Go, went, be going to

A. Review the underlined sentences in Part 2A and circle the alternative to complete the rule.

- To talk about how we traveled in the **past**, use: **go / went / be going to**
- To talk about how we travel **day to day, everyday, or usually**, use: **go / went / be going to**
- To talk about how we will travel in the **future**, use: **go / went / be going to**

B. Read the sentences and circle the alternatives to complete rules 1-4.

- I went on holiday to San Francisco two weeks ago.
- He went on holiday to San Francisco two weeks ago.
- She goes to work by train.
- I go to work by train.
- We are going to stay at a really nice hotel.

- The verb **go** **changes / doesn't change** with the subject.
- The verb **went** **changes / doesn't change** with the subject.
- The **be** in **be going to** **changes / doesn't change** with the subject.
- be going to** is followed by the **past participle / infinitive without 'to'** form of a verb.

C. Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb 'to go'.

- My car is at the mechanic shop, so I _____ take the bus to work next week.
- My mother doesn't like to travel by plane. When she _____ on holiday last year, the turbulence was really bad so now she usually _____ on holiday by car or coach.
- I _____ on the new metro system last week. It's really nice and modern.
- We _____ travel by boat for our holiday this year. We have booked a luxury cruise!
- My wife usually _____ to work by train, but they are repairing the train lines today, so she _____ go by bus instead.
- When I lived in the country, I _____ everywhere on foot. Now, I live in the city and I _____ by bus or tram.

4. Practice

A. Write four sentences using be going to, went, and go; three true and two false.

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B. Read your sentences to a partner. Your partner will ask questions to guess which of your sentences are true and which are false. Change roles and practice again.

Talking about Transportation



Level: Beginner: A1
Elementary: A2

Updated: Nov 17, 2022

Language: Function: Talking about the past. Talking about daily life. Talking about the future.
Forms: Verb forms.

Target time: 60 minutes.

Overview: Students are introduced to different types of transportation, ones that are similar yet different. Students also practice using 'go', 'went', and 'be going to' to express how they traveled to places in the past, how they usually travel, and how to discuss future trips and holidays/vacations.

1. WARM UP

A. Individually, students look at the words in pairs and tick the ones they know. Allow a minute or two for students to complete the activity. Answer any questions that arise. Note that there are differences between British English and American English. BrE speakers say 'the underground or the tube' and AmE speakers say 'the subway'. 'A coach' is a more luxurious bus made to transport passengers long distances in comfort. They are spacious and provide more amenities to passengers such as televisions, WiFi, and even bathrooms.

B. Individually, students decide if the words in Part 1A use 'a' or 'an'.

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------|------------|
| 1. an airplane | 2. a bus | 3. a car |
| 4. a taxi | 5. a subway | 6. a train |
| 7. a boat | 8. a motorbike | 9. a coach |
| 10. a ferry | | |

C. In pairs, students discuss and decide the difference between the types of transportation. Depending on students' level, they could simply write adjectives that could be used to compare them. Higher level students might be able to construct a comparative sentence. This may be a great time to review comparative sentences or check students' ability for a follow-up lesson. Answers may vary depending on student's creativity. You may choose to model and example on the board using adjectives or the suggested answers below.

- Fast, cheap, fun.
One has an engine the other doesn't.
- Fast, comfortable, nice.
One is usually underground and one is usually above ground. Trains usually travel outside the city/town/village. Subways generally operate inside the city/town/village.
- Cheap, comfortable, fast, convenient.
You can be passengers in both, but only a licensed taxi driver can drive a taxi. You pay for a taxi to take you somewhere - in a car you usually get driven or drive yourself for free.
- Comfortable, expensive.
A city bus travels shorter distances and coaches usually go much longer distances and seats usually need to be reserved in advance.

2. READING

A. In pairs, students read about how Erica, Niko, and James and decide which is about the past, present, and future using clues in the text. Students can circle new words as they read and discuss them as a class after the reading is complete.

- Erica Future (be going to and will)

2. Niko Past (went, was, slept)

3. James Present (have, live, go, drive, stop, thinks, goes)

B. In pairs, students ask and answer the questions about the text in Part 2A. Check answers with the class and discuss if necessary.

- James
- Eric
- Niko
- James

3. GO, WENT, BE GOING TO

A. Individually or in pairs, students review the underlined sentences in Part 2A and circle the correct alternative to complete the rules. Answer any questions that arise. Students can compare their answers with a partner and discuss any differences or check answers as a class and discuss if necessary.

- To talk about how we traveled in the past, use: **went**
- To talk about how we travel day to day, everyday, or usually, use: **go**
- To talk about how we will travel in the future, use: **be going to**

B. In pairs, students read the example sentences then circle the alternatives to complete rules 1-4. Check answers as a class.

- The verb **go** **changes** with the subject.
- The verb **went** **doesn't change** with the subject.
- The **be** in **be going to** **changes** with the subject.
- be going to** is followed by the **infinitive without 'to'** form of a verb.

C. Individually, students read sentences 1-6 and fill the gaps with the correct form of the verb 'to go'. Students can compare their answers with a partner and discuss any differences or check answers as a class by having students read the completed sentences.

- My car is at the mechanic shop, so I **am going to** take the bus to work next week.
- My mother doesn't like to travel by plane. When she **went** on holiday last year, the turbulence was really bad so now she usually **goes** on holiday by car or coach.
- I **went** on the new metro system last week. It's really nice and modern.
- We **are going to** travel by boat for our holiday this year. We have booked a luxury cruise!
- My wife usually **goes** to work by train, but they are repairing the train lines today, so she **is going to** go by bus instead.

6. When I lived in the country, I **went** everywhere on foot.
Now, I live in the city and I **go** by bus or tram.

4. PRACTICE

- A. Individually, students write four sentences using went, go, and be going to. Two sentences should be true and two false. Encourage students to be creative with their sentences. Answer any questions that arise as students work through the activity. If students struggle, suggest they use the text in Part 2A for help.
- B. In pairs or a small group, students read their sentences, one by one. Students listening should ask questions to decide if it is true or false. Students change roles and practice again.

Share a sentence with the class if it is interesting or funny.