

BE ABOUT TO, BE ON THE BRINK/VERGE/POINT OF

Be about to

We often use **be about to** + infinitive to say that something will happen in the very near future.

- *Some apps **are about to disappear** from the market.*
- *Scientists say they **are about to find** a vaccine.*

Be on the brink/verge/point of

We can also use **be on the brink of**, **be on the verge of**, or **be on the point of** to say that something will happen very soon.

- *Our country's economy is **on the brink of collapse**.*
- *This historical museum is **on the brink of losing** half its masterpieces.*
- *They are **on the verge of becoming** the team to win the most finals in history.*
- *The two historical enemies **are on the point of reaching** an agreement.*

Be due to

We use **be due to** + infinitive to talk about future events that are planned or expected to happen.

- *Greece **is due to repay** around £6 billion to its creditors next semester.*
- *The secretary **is due to arrive** in Montreal tomorrow morning.*

Be to

We can use **be to** + infinitive in different situations.

Official arrangements

Be to + infinitive is often used in news reports to talk about official arrangements and events that are planned or expected to happen. The meaning is usually something like 'it is expected'.

- *Prince William **is to visit** Paris for the first time since his mother died. (=It is expected that Prince William will...)*
- *Nine care homes for the elderly **are to close** by the end of March.*

Formal instructions and orders

We can also use **be to** + infinitive to talk about **official instructions** and **orders**. When used in the negative form, it expresses **prohibition**.

- *All employees **are to attend** a health and safety orientation at the end of the week.*
- *You **are not to leave** this room until I say so.*

If clauses

We often use **be to** + infinitive in an **if**-clause. In these cases, we say what should be done (main clause) to achieve the desired result (**if**-clause).

- *We need to be open to everybody's opinion if we **are to avoid** repeating the mistakes of the past.*

- If he **is to succeed**, he will need to learn to represent the interests of all Americans.

Be bound to, be likely to (probability)

Be bound to

We use **be bound to** + infinitive to say that something is certain or very likely to happen.

- They **are bound to like** him. He is such a sweet guy.
- His new film **is bound to win** the hearts of every romantic out there.

Be likely to

We use **be likely to** + infinitive to say that something will probably happen. We can also use **It + be likely that** + clause.

- The government **is likely to pass** new regulations very soon.
- **It's likely that** the company will have to pay for the damages.

We use **be unlikely** + infinitive to say that something will probably not happen. We can also use **It + be unlikely that** + clause.

- He **is unlikely to win** this match.
- **It's unlikely that** the weather will change over the next few days.

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