

IES GALILEO GALILEI.

HOW TO EXPRESS CERTAINTY, PROBABILITY AND UNCERTAINTY

CERTAINTY:

“ I’m absolutely sure / I’m quite sure/ I’m certain/ I’m positive

“ I’m positive (that) my team will win the match ”

“ We are certain (that) Mike took our car ”

Some adverbs: definitely/ certainly, absolutely, without doubt.

Definitely: Look at the position of the adverb; it can be at the beginning (1) , between the subject and the verb (2), or after an auxiliary or modal verb (3).- Like frequency adverbs.

1.- **Definitely**, you need some help!

2.- You **definitely** need some help

3.- You are **definitely** out of your mind.



PROBABILITY

“ I’m almost sure that .., there’s a good chance that, the chances are that....

In all probability; in all likelihood; it’s very unlikely.

Probably: Look at the position of the adverb; it can be at the beginning (1) , between the subject and the verb (2), or after an auxiliary or modal verb (3).- Like frequency adverbs.

1.- **Probably** he lives by himself.

2.- He **probably** needs some help with his English.

3.- You’re **probably** right.

4.- Next summer we **will not probably meet** – Next summer **we probably won’t meet** *

* In a negative sentence, if you are using a contracted form such as “won’t” or “can’t”, you put probably in front of the contracted form.

To be likely + to infinitive:

Sara is likely to sell her old car = Sara will probably sell her old car

We are likely to leave early = We will probably leave early.

MODAL VERBS TO EXPRESS POSSIBILITY, PROBABILITY OR UNCERTAINTY.

Julia has got a new job as a translator. We can guess:

*She **must** be very excited about it* . (I’m almost sure this is a good guess, positive deduction)

*She **will** make a lot of money* (we’re very sure about it, not 100% sure but close to)

*She **may/might/could** have to move to Madrid* (maybe)

*It **should** be very easy for her to get an important position in the company* (what we expect)

*She **can’t** regret accepting this offer* (almost sure it won’t happen, negative deduction)

“Practice makes perfect.”

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EXERCISE: "Your guess is as good as mine"

Make sentences by expressing the degree of probability in brackets.

1.- The USA will have a black President Woman. (probably)

2.- The economic crunch will last a few more years (may)

3.- Amanda will pass her tests (likely)

4.- Alaves football team will win the Spanish league (can't)

5.- Marta will have no problem to make herself understood (shouldn't)

6.- Top Models will make a lot of money (must)

7.- There will be a World government (unlikely)

8.- People will live to be at least 110 years old (could)

9.- The average working week will be reduced to 32 hours soon (there's a good chance)

10.- Madrid will host the Olympic games in the next few decades (In all likelihood)

11.- We will not find a way to beat death and stay immortal (probably)

12.- Martin will get a well-paid job in the city (likely)

13.- Humans will put an end to racism (without doubt)

14.- New diseases will threat our world (definitely)

15.- Homeschooling will replace the present educational system (definitely)

16.- Our politicians will use their common sense (it's very unlikely)

17.- Be nice to nerds because you will work for one them (the chances are...)

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If a woman asks you a question, It's better to tell her the truth because chances are she's asking you because she already knows the answer...



"Practice makes perfect."