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PREDICT THE FUTURE WITH THE LANGUAGE BELOW!

Companies often make forecasts about the future, so they can predict sales, profits, or future expenditure. We also make predictions about things in our daily lives, such as the weather or actions we may carry out.

We can use structures such as “going to” or “will” to make strong predictions about the future. For example:

- 1) I think our employees will be more motivated when they work from home.
- 2) Looking at those sales results, I think we are going to have a successful year.

However, there are other structures we can use that give more detail about the level of probability of something happening in the future. These phrases include:

- 1) will + adverb
 - will definitely, will probably, will possibly, probably won't, definitely won't
- 2) modal verbs
 - may, might, could, may not, might not
- 3) structures with adjectives
 - is certain/bound to, is sure/expected to, is likely/unlikely to
 - it's certain that, it's likely/probable that, there's a good chance, it's doubtful

Please see the sentences below for examples of these phrases in use. The general level of probability for the phrases is in brackets.

EXAMPLES

Predictions about things that are certain to happen (100% probability)

- ✓ If we sell defective products, there will definitely be complaints.
- ✓ Because the line is down, the production schedule is certain to be delayed.
- ✓ We should start the meeting without him. He's bound to be late.
week.



Predictions about things that are likely to happen (75% probability)

- ✓ If employees keep using their phones while walking, there will probably be an accident.
- ✓ The company is likely to start recruiting engineers for the new factory soon.
- ✓ There's a good chance I will be able to finish my report by the end of the week.

Predictions about things that may happen (50% probability)

- ✓ The new office may/might be ready by the end of the month.
- ✓ There is a traffic jam, so I could be late for the meeting.
- ✓ We will possibly need to hire a new engineer for this project.
- ✓ Maybe/Perhaps our share price will fall next quarter.
- ✓ Employees may not/might not feel comfortable wearing masks this summer.

Predictions about things that are unlikely to happen (25% probability)

- ✓ If the salary for that new position is low, I probably won't apply for it.
- ✓ The Japanese employees are unlikely to use all their paid holidays this year.
- ✓ It's doubtful whether we'll be able to catch up to the original production schedule.

Predictions about things that we are sure won't happen (0% probability)

- ✓ We definitely won't have a Christmas party this year because of the coronavirus situation.

Asking someone to make a prediction

- ✓ What do you think the company will do about the poor sales results?
- ✓ Do you think you will go on holiday this summer?
- ✓ Are you likely to go back to your hometown in the holiday?

EXAMPLE DIALOGUE

Kaori: What do you think they will decide to do about the team-building activity this month?

Amy: I think they will definitely cancel it. It's not safe for so many people to gather because of the current coronavirus situation.

Kaori: Yes, I think so too. However, they will probably hold an online event instead. A lot of other departments are doing it that way.

EXAMPLE DIALOGUE 2

Daichi: I'd like to submit a proposal about the recent increase in accidents on the stairs. Why don't we have a campaign about the importance of holding the handrail?

Todd: Good idea. If we do that, the employees will be more aware of the danger. There's a good chance they will be more willing to hold the handrails afterwards.

Daichi: Yes, and as a result, there are likely to be fewer accidents on the stairs in future.

EXAMPLE DIALOGUE 3

David: Do you think you will go to the city fireworks festival this summer?

Eiko: No, I probably won't go to the festival this year as there are always too many people there.

David: I see. It's a pity you will miss it.

Eiko: However, our community runs a local fireworks festival, so I will probably go to that one with my family. There will definitely be fewer people there.

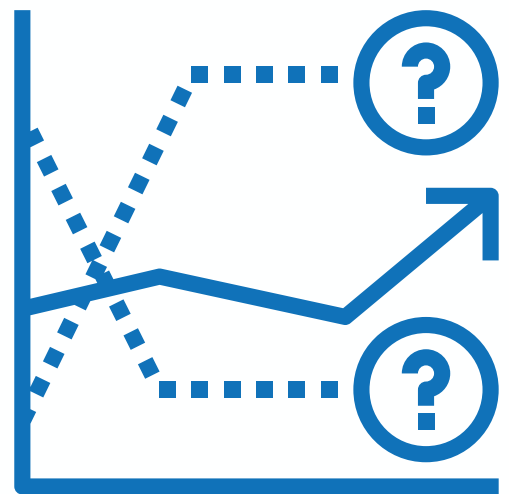
David: That sounds like a good plan.

YOUR TURN!

1) Make a prediction about your work, department, or Micron.

2) Ask your partner to make a prediction about their work or about their free-time activities. Please see the list below for ideas to ask about:

- go on a business trip this year
- work from home this week
- go to a team-building event with your colleagues
- have a Zoom party with your colleagues
- have lunch in the Micron cafeteria this week
- attend a meeting held in English this month
- give a presentation this week
- go back to your hometown this year
- have a barbecue this weekend
- have dinner with your family tonight
- watch TV tonight
- do some exercise sometime this week
- go abroad to another country in your next holiday
- (own idea)



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