



You can make predictions with “**will**” and “**going to**” when you are fairly **certain** that something is going to happen. However, the following structures are also useful when **making predictions and forecasts** because they give some indication about the **degree of certainty** of an event happening in the future.

1) Adverbs

- will definitely, will probably, will possibly, probably won't, definitely won't

2) Modal verbs

- may, might, could, may not, might not (**Note:** We cannot use “could not”)

3) Other expressions

- be certain to, be bound to, be sure to, be likely to, be unlikely to
- there's a chance / a good chance / not much chance / no chance / no way that
- I expect / think / doubt it will...

MAKING PREDICTIONS WITH "WILL" AND "GOING TO"

- I think she **will** be able to help. (*a prediction based on your feeling or experience*)
- It's **going to** rain later. Look at the dark clouds. (*a prediction based on current evidence*)

PREDICTIONS ABOUT THINGS THAT YOU ARE VERY SURE WILL HAPPEN (100% CERTAINTY)

- If we sell defective products, there **will definitely** be complaints.
- Because of the power outage, the production schedule **is certain to** be delayed.
- He's **bound to** be nervous before his first technical presentation.

PREDICTIONS ABOUT THINGS THAT YOU ARE ALMOST SURE WILL HAPPEN (75% CERTAINTY)

- 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 YOU ARE NOT SURE WILL HAPPEN (50% CERTAINTY)

- 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.
- **There's a chance** our share price will fall next quarter.
- Employees **may not / might not** feel comfortable wearing masks this summer.



PREDICTIONS ABOUT THINGS THAT YOU ARE ALMOST SURE WILL NOT HAPPEN (25% CERTAINTY)

- 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.
- I **doubt** we'll be able to catch up to the original production schedule.
- **There's not much chance** that I'll finish this report today.

PREDICTIONS ABOUT THINGS THAT YOU ARE VERY SURE WILL NOT HAPPEN (0% CERTAINTY)

- We **definitely won't** hold a team building event next month because of the coronavirus situation.
- **There's no chance** that my boss will give me a day off tomorrow.

ASKING SOMEONE TO MAKE A PREDICTION

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

WORKSHOP ACTIVITY

Make a prediction about your job or a free time activity. Use the list below for an idea or use your own idea. If you can, explain why you think that way.

- go on a business trip this year
- work from home next week
- write a report for your manager this week
- go to a team-building event with your colleagues
- attend a meeting today
- have lunch in the Micron cafeteria this week
- give a presentation this month
- speak English with a colleague this week
- participate in a volunteer activity this month
- go back to your hometown this year
- go camping sometime this month
- have a barbecue this weekend
- go to a shopping mall this weekend
- have dinner with your family tonight
- watch TV tonight
- attend a sports event this month
- do some exercise sometime this week
- go to a restaurant this weekend
- go abroad to another country in your next holiday
- (own idea)

