

SEPTEMBER OPEN WORKSHOP Predicting and Forecasting



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 <u>very sure</u> 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 <u>Almost sure</u> 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 <u>not sure</u> 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.



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PREDICTIONS ABOUT THINGS THAT YOU ARE <u>Almost sure</u> will <u>not</u> 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 <u>very sure</u> will <u>not</u> 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.

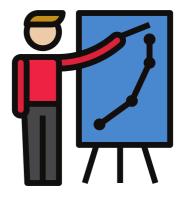
ASKING SOMEONE TO MAKE A PREDICTION

- 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)





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