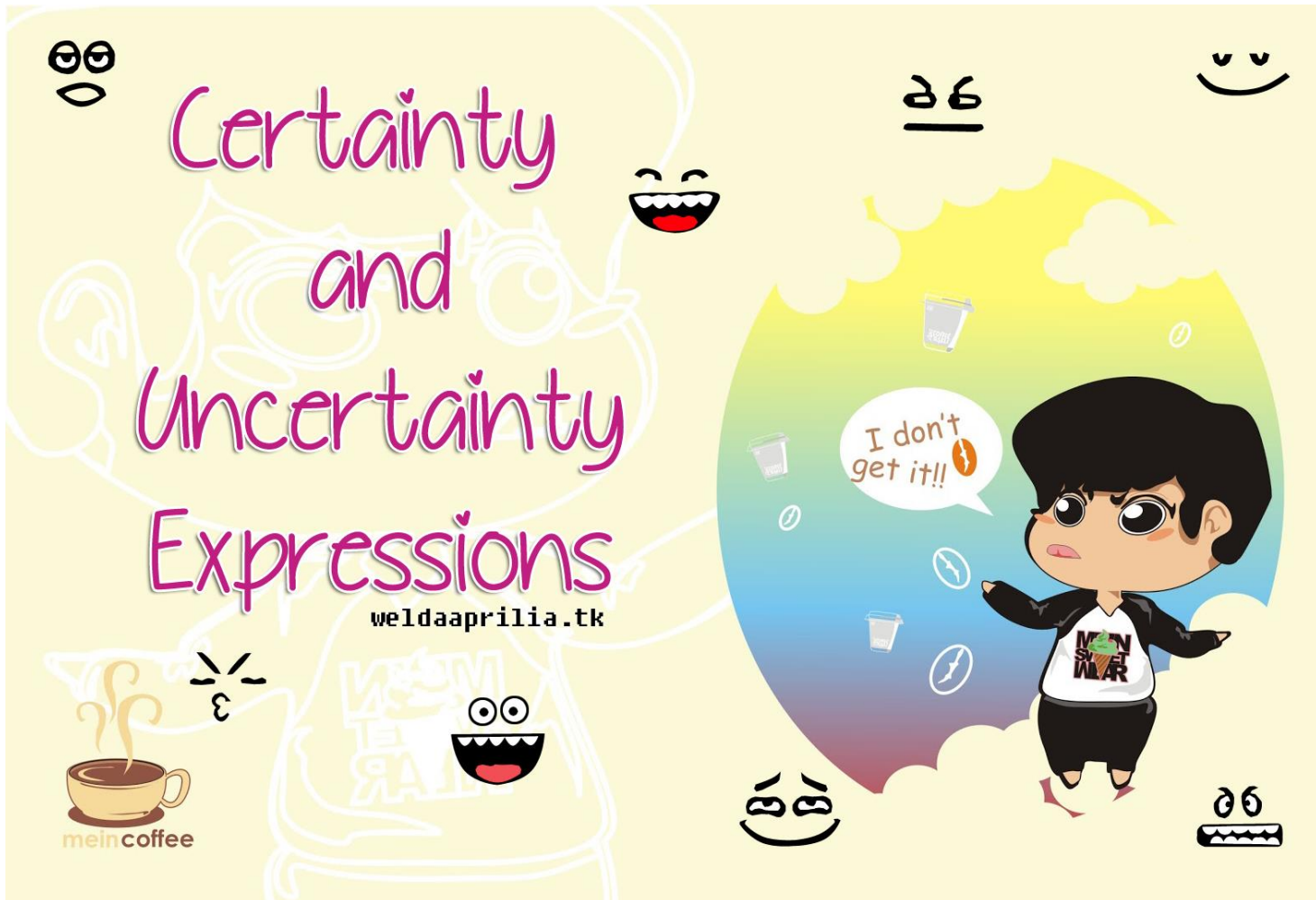


# Certainty - Uncertainty



# Modals for Certainty

The sun *will* rise tomorrow.



**Expressing certainly – Certainty** refers to the state of being sure about whether something has or never happened. Below, some of the most common expressions in English that you can use to:

- **Ask for certainty**
- **Express certainty**
- **Express uncertainty**

### **Asking for Certainty:**

- Are you sure?
- Are you sure about it?
- Are you certain about it?
- Do you think it is true?
- Do you think so?
- How sure are you?

## Expressing Certainty:

- ✓ Yes, I am certain.
- ✓ I'm a hundred percent certain ...
- ✓ I'm absolutely sure.
- ✓ I have no doubt about it.
- ✓ I'm sure about it.
- ✓ I don't think there can be any doubt about ....
- ✓ Of course.
- ✓ I'm positive.
- ✓ I'm quite sure about it.
- ✓ I'm no doubt about it.
- ✓ I'm absolutely certain that...

## Expressing Uncertainty:

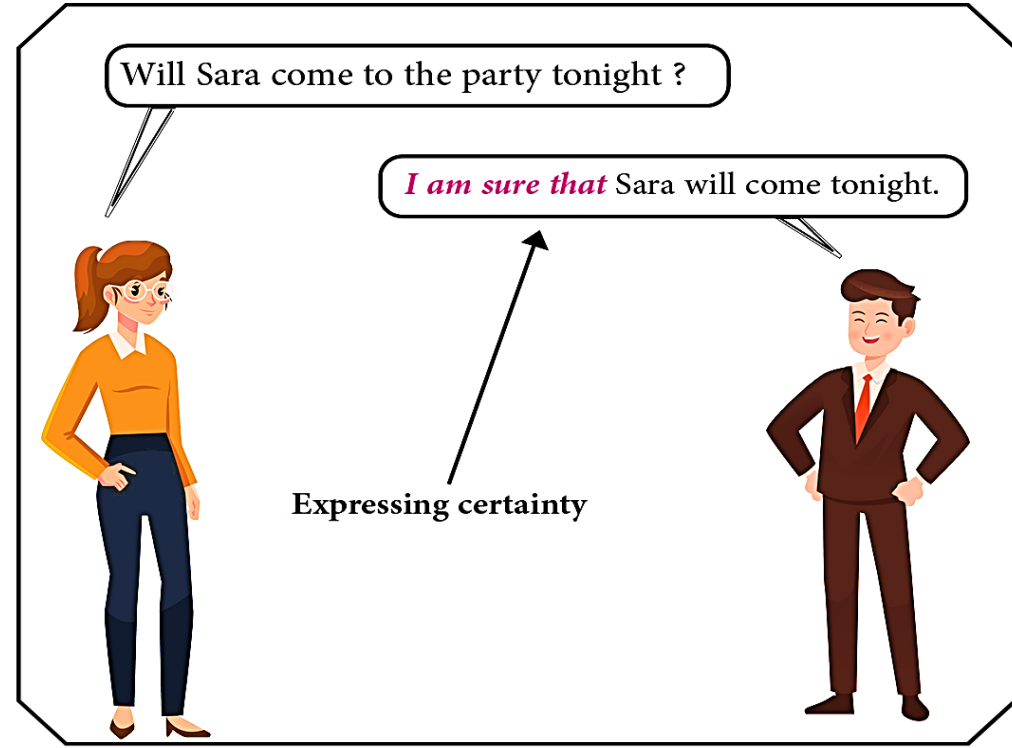
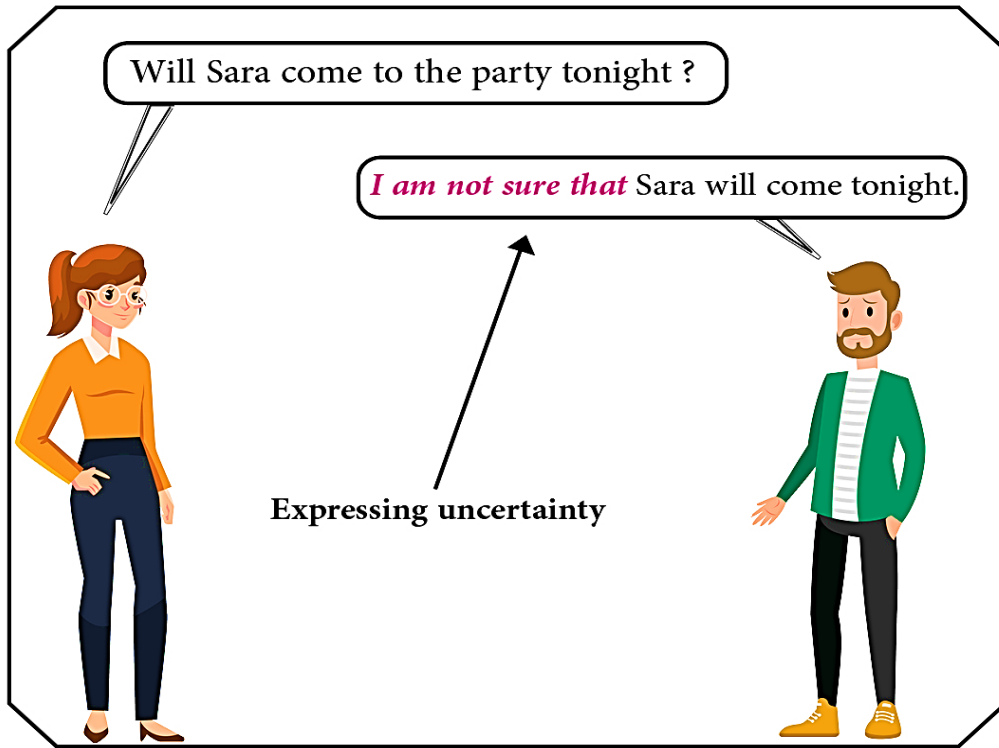
- I'm not sure about it.
- I doubt it.
- I'm not really sure about...
- I don't know for sure...
- It's very unlikely.
- I have my own doubts.
- I don't think so.
- I don't believe this is true.
- There's some doubt in my mind that ...
- I'm not a hundred percent sure.
- I don't know yet.

## **Adverbs To Express Certainty**

- **Definitely**
- **Certainly**
- **Undoubtedly**
- **Absolutely**

## **Adverbs To Express Uncertainty**

- **Uncertainly**
- **Doubtfully**
- **Probably**
- **Possibly**
- **Likely**



## Expressing certainty

- I am sure that..
  - I am sure about that.
  - No one can deny that...
  - It's crystal clear that...
  - Certainly.
- أنا متأكد من أن ...
  - أنا متأكد من ذلك.
  - لا أحد يستطيع أن ينكر أن...
  - من الواضح أن ...
  - بالتأكيد.

## Expressing uncertainty

- I am not sure that..
  - I doubt it that.
  - It's unlikely that...
  - I am not certain that...
  - Maybe / perhaps
  - It's possible that..
- أنا لست متأكدا من أن....
  - أشك في ذلك.
  - من غير المرجح أن....
  - أنا لست متأكدا من....
  - ربما / ربما.
  - من الممكن أن ...

## Modal Verbs

Certainty & Uncertainty

التأكد وعدم التأكد

I **will** go home after school

I'm sure = I'm certain  
متأكد

I **won't** eat in the lesson

I'm sure = I'm certain  
متأكد



# Modal Verbs

Certainty & Uncertainty

التأكد وعدم التأكد

It **could** rain in April

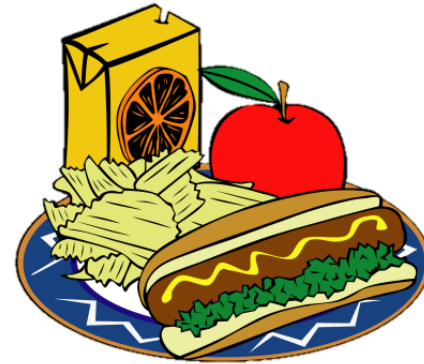
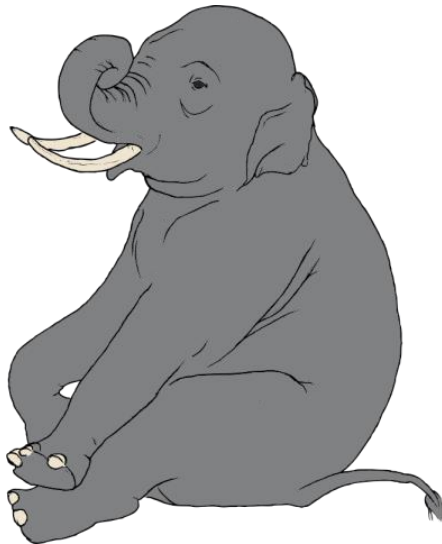
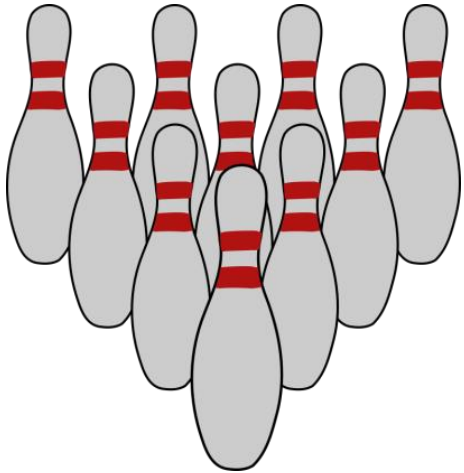
I'm not sure = I'm not certain

I don't know

غير متأكد



# Modal verbs and adverbs



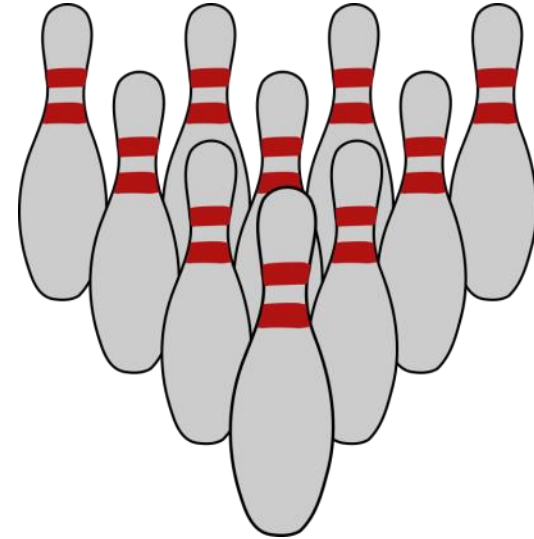
# Modal verbs

Modal verbs help us to say how likely something is to happen.

‘I might go bowling on Saturday’  
shows that the speaker is uncertain

whereas:

‘I will go bowling on Saturday’  
shows that the speaker is more definite.



# Using modal verbs

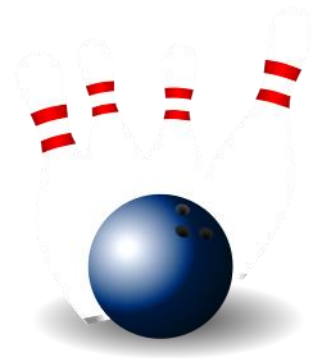
Modal adverbs can be used to emphasise how certain or uncertain we are.

- I might go bowling this Saturday.

*I might possibly go bowling on Saturday.*

- I will go bowling this Saturday.

*I will definitely go bowling on Saturday.*



# How certain?

Where would you place the modal verbs and adverbs on a 'certainty' line?



definitely  
(adv)

will  
(v)

possibly  
(adv)

certainly  
(adv)

must  
(v)

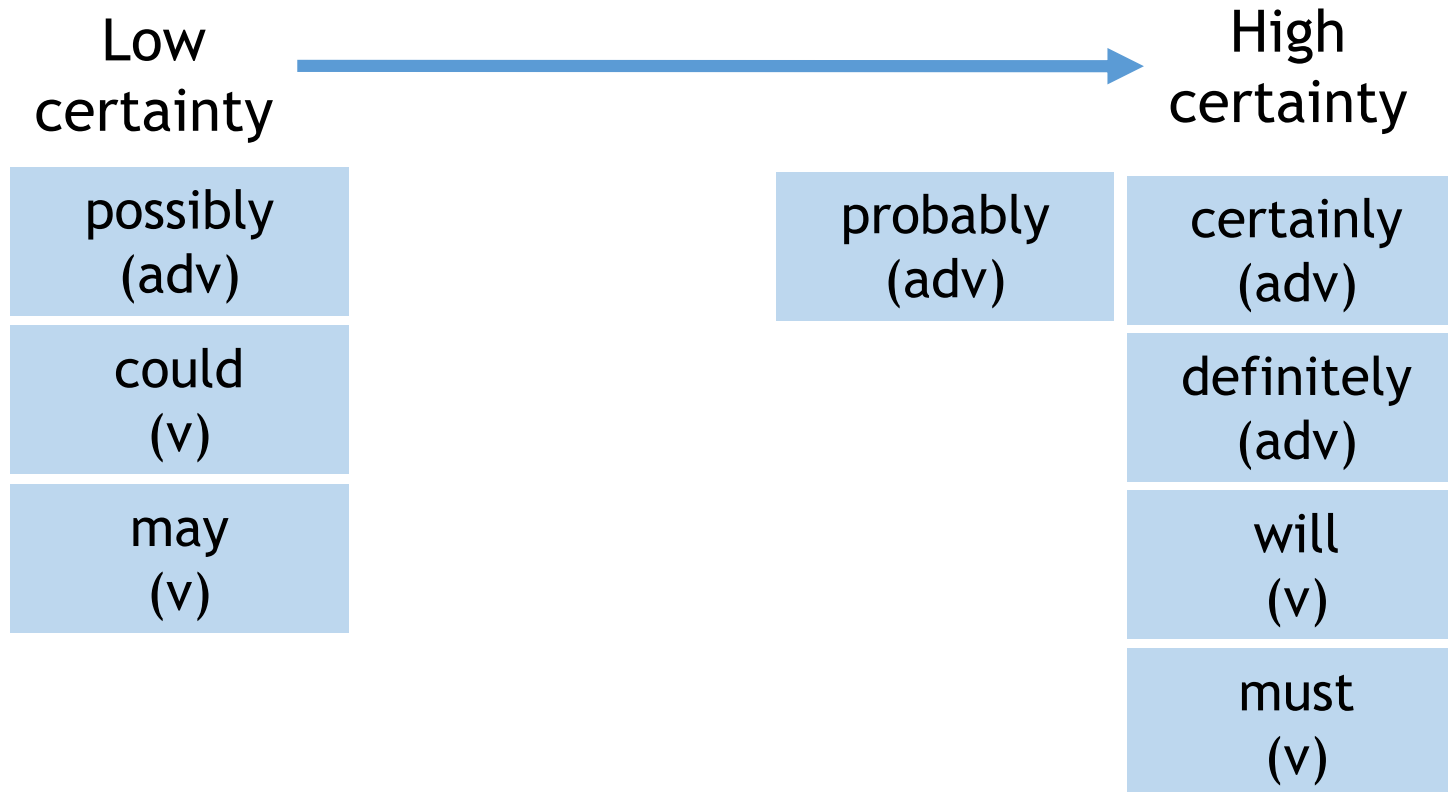
may  
(v)

could  
(v)

probably  
(adv)

# How certain? Answers

You might find that your answers are in slightly different places on the scale, rather than being grouped together.



# Sentence construction

Modal verbs are placed after the subject in a sentence. They are placed first in a verb phrase and then followed by the main verb.

For example:

- The budgie might want some seed.

subject

modal verb

main verb

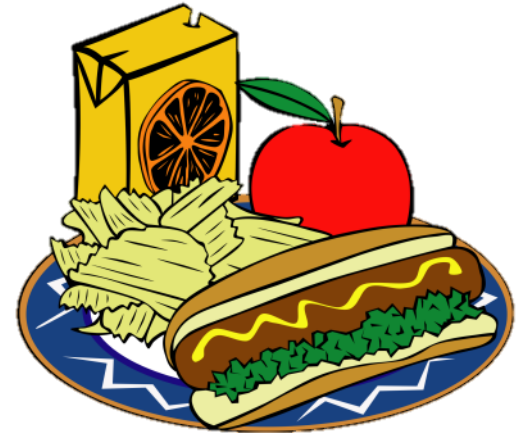




# Modal verbs and adverbs in sentences

Identify the modal verbs and adverbs in the following sentences.

- My brother will come to dinner tomorrow.
- The house could do with redecorating.
- John should get a job.
- It will be difficult for me to be there.
- It will rain occasionally tomorrow.
- I definitely know the answer.
- Tim will probably be late.
- The train will possibly be on time.



## Modal verbs and adverbs in sentences. Answers

- My brother will come to dinner tomorrow.
- The house could do with redecorating.
- John should get a job.
- It will be difficult for me to be there.
- It will rain occasionally tomorrow.
- I definitely know the answer.
- Tim will probably be late.
- The train will possibly be on time.



## Expressing certainty and uncertainty

### Must be

I'm sure  
I am certain  
Definitely

- I am sure he is a doctor.
- He must be a doctor

### Can't be

I am sure not  
I am certain not  
-I am **sure** he is **not** a doctor.  
-He can't be a doctor.

### Might be

I am not sure  
I am not certain  
I am uncertain  
Perhaps  
Maybe  
Probable  
Possible  
I don't know  
I don't think so  
I have no idea  
I am **not sure**, he is a doctor  
He **might be** a doctor

# Examples

- I am sure Ali **is** at home. (**must**)
- Ali **must be** at home.
- I am sure Adel **isn't** ill. (**can't**)
- Adel **can't be** ill.
- **Perhaps** Heba **is** in Alexandria (**might**)
- Heba might be in Alexandria..
- It is **probable** that he **is** rich. (**might**)
- He **might** be rich.
- He **will arrive** early. I **am not** sure. (**might**)
- He **might** arrive early.

→ If we are less than 100% certain about a situation, we can use modal verbs to show our level of certainty:



## MODALS OF CERTAINTY

- We use modals of certainty to make deductions or assumptions, that is, to make judgments and opinions about a situation in the present. These modal verbs are: **must, can't, may, might and could.**



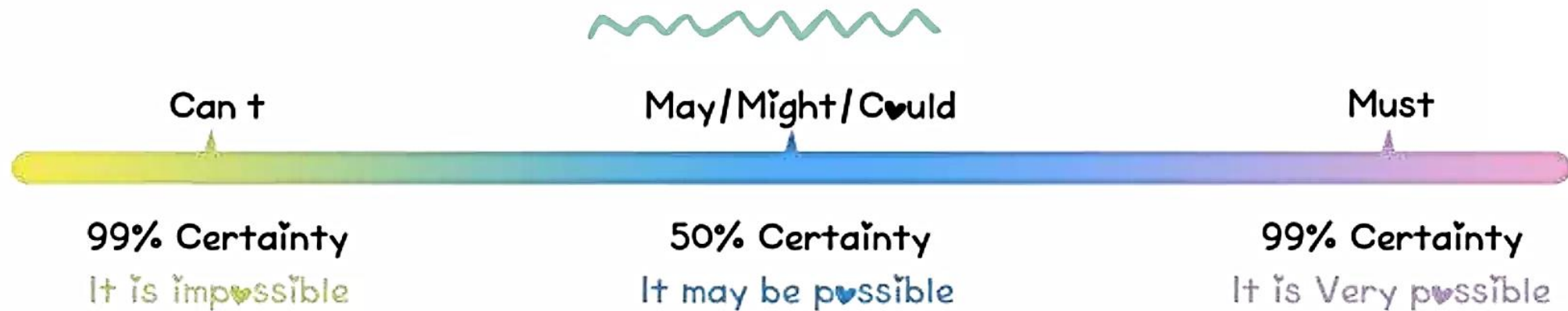
- You have just eaten.  
You **can't** be hungry.



- You **must** be Mr. Miller.



WE CHOOSE THE MODAL DEPENDING ON  
THE DEGREE OF CERTAINTY WE HAVE ON  
WHAT WE ARE SAYING



WHEN THE DEDUCTION IS ABOUT HABITUAL AND EVERYDAY SITUATIONS OR THE MAIN VERB IS A STATIVE VERB THE MODAL VERB IS FOLLOWED BY AN INFINITIVE.

THE ESTRUCTURE IS THE NEXT ONE:

	Form	Examples
Must	Subject + <b>must</b> + infinitive	He is a biologist, he <b>must</b> know a lot about animals.
Can't	Subject + <b>can't</b> + infinitive	This jacket <b>can't</b> belong to Mike. It's too small.
May Might Could	Subject + <b>may/might</b> + <b>not</b> + infinitive	I wouldn't go to his house. He <b>might not</b> be there.

HOWEVER, WE WILL USE MODALS WITH THE VERB TO BE FOLLOWED BY A GERUND WHEN DEALING WITH DEDUCTIONS ABOUT TEMPORARY SITUATIONS AND ACTIONS THAT HAPPEN AT THE PRECISE MOMENT IN WHICH IT IS SPOKEN

	Form	Examples
Must	Subject + <b>must</b> + <b>be</b> + gerund	Paula is in Hawaii. Now she <b>must be</b> lying on the beach.
Can't	Subject + <b>can't</b> + <b>be</b> + gerund	They <b>could be</b> talking about the weekend.
May Might Could	Subject + <b>may/might</b> + <b>not</b> + gerund	He <b>might not</b> be lying.

100% certain



He **is** on a break.

Almost  
100%  
certain



He **must** be on a  
break.

He **has to** be on a  
break.



**Must** means you  
are very sure, but  
not 100%.

He's **got to** be on a  
break.

\*Although not modal verbs, **have to** and **have got to** can be used as the same meaning of **must**, especially in American English.



Uncertain



He **may** be on a break.

He **might** be on a break.

He **could** be on a break.



**May, might, and could** are used to say that you are unsure.



## Examples

- He **must** be hungry. He hasn't eaten anything all day.
- She **has to** be here. That's her bag and coat.
- She has to go home early. She **might** have to do her homework still.



→ In negative situations, we say the following:

100% certain  He **isn't** here.

Almost 100% certain  He **can't** be here.  **Can't** is commonly used to express a strong certainty that something is impossible.

Uncertain



He **may not** be here.

He **might not** be here.



**May not** and **might not** express uncertainty.

Notice **could** is not used for this meaning.

## Examples

- She joined the school this morning, so she **can't** know the rules of the school yet.
- You said Joe was Canadian, but he speaks English with an Irish accent. He **can't** be Canadian.
- Jose **may not** understand what you are saying. His English is not as good as mine.

## Examples Of Expressing Certainty And Uncertainty In English

•A: **Do you think** the UN will find a solution to the current conflicts in the Middle East?

•B: Based on what is happening now, **I'm not really sure about** that

•A: I hope my friend will pass the test.

•B: **He will certainly do.**

•A: **Are you sure that** our team will win the game today?

•B: **I'm convinced that** we will win after the hard work they went through.

.....she will come tomorrow?

➤ I'm not sure

➤ you are sure

➤ do you think

Correct!

.....she will come tomorrow?

Your answer: do you think

NEXT



Which is word is different?

Doubtedly

Definitely

Absolutely

Correct!

Which is word is different?

Your answer: Doubtedly

NEXT

"Are you sure about that...?" is used to

ask for certainty

express uncertainty

express certainty

Correct!

"Are you sure about that...?" is used to

**Your answer:** ask for certainty

NEXT

"I'm not sure about that" is used to

express uncertainty

express certainty

ask for certainty

Correct!

"I'm not sure about that" is used to

**Your answer:** express uncertainty

NEXT



"There is no doubt about that" is used to

express certainty

ask for certainty

express uncertainty

Correct!

"There is no doubt about that" is used to

**Your answer:** express certainty

NEXT

## Modal Verbs

### Certainty & Uncertainty

**Choose the best answer**

It's very early .The teacher .....be at school

a-) will

b-) must

c-) might

## Modal Verbs

### Certainty & Uncertainty

**Choose the best answer**

It's nine o'clock . The teacher .....be at school

- a-) might
- b-) won't
- c-) will

## Modal Verbs

Certainty & Uncertainty

**Choose the best answer**

I don't know what to do I.....go swimming

a-) could

b-) won't

c-) will



## Modal Verbs

Certainty & Uncertainty

**Choose the best answer**

I.....go to the tennis club tomorrow because

I have a lesson

- a-) might
- b-) could
- c-) will



## Modal Verbs

### Certainty & Uncertainty

**Choose the best answer**

We .....go to school next Friday.It's the weekend

a-) will

b-) won't

c-) might

## Modal Verbs

### Certainty & Uncertainty

### Choose the best answer

My mother .....cook chicken today. She cooks it every Friday . We all love it

- a-) could
- b-) will
- c-) won't