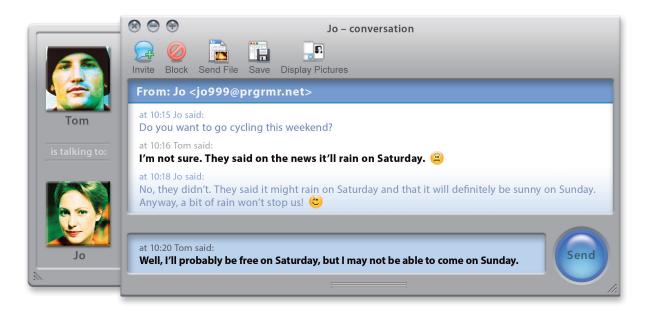


Intermediate Unit 4a

Predictions



Presentation

Use will, may and might to make predictions.

will / won't

Use will / won't when you're confident about the prediction. It'll rain on Saturday.

It won't rain on Sunday.

will / won't + adverbs

Use *will* with the adverbs *certainly* and *definitely* when you are 100% certain something will happen:

I'll definitely be free on Saturday.

Use will with the adverb *probably* when you are 70% certain something will happen:

I'll probably be busy on Sunday.

Notice the position of the adverb with *will / won't*:

It'll definitely be sunny on Sunday. (The adverb comes after will.)

It definitely won't rain on Sunday. (The adverb comes before *won't*.)

may / might

Use *may (not)* or *might (not)* when you are less confident about a prediction:

It might/may not rain. (= it's possible that it will rain but it's also possible that it won't.)

There is no difference in meaning between *may* or *might*, but *might* is used more in everyday spoken English.

will / may / might + be able to

Use will / won't / might / may not + be able to to make predictions about ability:

I'll be able to come on Saturday.

I may not be able to come on Sunday.

Exercises

1 Put the words in order to make sentences with predictions.

- 1 the / mobile phones / important technology / become / will / most / in our lives
- 2 won't / use / computers / we / in our daily life
- 3 definitely / disappear forever / will / traditional letters
- 4 we / won't / in the future / probably / emails / send
- 5 might / it / snow / tomorrow
- 6 I / may / be / to come / not / able

2 Complete the sentences with the adverb in brackets.

- 1 Computers in the future will look very different. (probably)
- 2 In fact, they won't look anything like computers as we know them today. (probably)
- 3 But they will be part of everything we use. (certainly)
- 4 Our televisions will include computer technology that can download films and programmes directly from the internet. (definitely)
- 5 We won't change the way we use personal music players. (definitely)
- 6 But new technology will make it possible to download music directly onto the players without using a computer. (probably)

3 Rewrite the sentences using the modal verb in brackets.

| ı | Sue |
|---|---|
| 2 | I don't think I'll go to the meeting tomorrow. (might) I |
| 3 | It's possible that Luis won't be here tomorrow. (may) Luis |
| 4 | There's a chance Jess and Marcos won't get married this year. (might) Jess and Marcos |
| 5 | We're thinking of asking Katie to look after the children. (may) We |
| 6 | We probably won't take a summer holiday this year. (might) |

4 Read this interview with an expert on transport in the future. Choose the correct options.

Interviewer: Good morning Doctor Lacey. In one of your articles you say we 'definitely won'd may not have

cars by the end of the century. Why are you so certain?

Lacey: Actually I didn't say that. I said we ²will definitely / definitely won't have cars that use traditional

fuel. There isn't enough oil in the world. But it's difficult to say what we will use in its place.

We ³will / might use water or air, but it's hard to predict.

Interviewer: What about planes? Do you think they *will be able to / are able to fly without oil?

Lacey: Well, I think all cars 5will / might definitely fly in the future, so it's possible that we 6may / may not

need planes in the future.

Interviewer: Really? When do you think this will happen?

Lacey: It ⁷probably won't / definitely won't happen in my lifetime – I have no doubt about that – but I

think my grandchildren ⁸ will probably / probably won't fly their cars to work.

Interviewer: And what about travel through time?

Lacey: No, that's impossible. We 'won't be able / may not be able to do that.