Structures

Certain	it **will**	• **certainly** • **definitely**						
A good chance	it **will**	• **probably**	happen					
A possibility	it **will**	• **possibly**		**maybe**	it **will** happen	• It **might**	happen	
				perhaps		• it **may**		

Reading 8.1

THE LOW TEMPERATURES WILL POSSIBLY CAUSE BLACK ICE ON SOME ROADS.

The world will definitely run out of oil. The question is not "if", but "when".

Today
The United Nations predicts that global population will probably grow by 30% in the next 40 years.

Speaking about the tire maker's recent success in the Brazilian market, Eric Coe, an analyst at Fairhouse Investments, said **"Maybe it will continue. But perhaps we'll see a fall in sales next year"**.

Some economists predict that growth may remain below 2% for three years or more.

TODAY
THERE WILL CERTAINLY BE MORE DEMAND FOR SMALLER CARS IN THE FUTURE.

Several studies suggest that the speed of global warming might increase in the future. This means the possibility of growing pressure to "go green".

8.1 Follow-up

Look at the extracts below, from Reading 8.1. The highlighted words have been changed. Compare the changed words in 1–7 below with those in Reading 8.1. Is their meaning the same or different?

1 The low temperatures will perhaps cause black ice …   S   D
2 The world will probably run out of oil.   S   D
3 … global population will certainly grow by 30% …   S   D
4 But maybe we'll see a fall in sales next year.   S   D
5 There will definitely be more demand for smaller cars in the future.   S   D
6 … growth will perhaps remain below 2% for three years or more.   S   D
7 … the speed of global warming may increase in the future.   S   D

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Practice Exercise 1

Change the sentences about the future using the words on the right. The first one is done for you.

1 It's certain that the highways will be busy tomorrow. *(certainly)*
   The highways will certainly be busy tomorrow.

2 It's possible that it will snow in the morning. *(perhaps)*

3 It's probable that the country's population will decrease. *(probably)*

4 It's possible that the meeting will finish early. *(might)*

5 It's possible that the forecast will be wrong. *(maybe)*

6 It's possible that the flight will be delayed. *(may)*

7 It's certain that she will win the election. *(definitely)*

8 It's possible that we'll have a few problems. *(possibly)*

Practice Exercise 2

Fill in the blanks with the correct word or phrase to express the appropriate level of certainty about future events.

A. Certain it will happen
   1. She will _____ get the job after such a successful interview.
   2. They will _____ arrive by noon as planned.

B. A good chance it will happen
   3. It's _____ going to rain tomorrow.
   4. He will _____ pass the exam with all the effort he's putting in.

C. A possibility it will happen
   5. They will _____ launch the new product next month.
   6. _____ the concert will be rescheduled due to the weather.
   7. I will _____ attend the meeting if my schedule allows.
   8. It _____ rain later, so take an umbrella just in case.

Practice Exercise 3

Choose the correct option (may or maybe) to complete each sentence.

1. It **(may / maybe)** rain tomorrow.

2. She **(may / maybe)** be late because of traffic.

3. **(May / Maybe)** we should take an umbrella just in case.

4. He **(may / maybe)** not come to the party.

5. **(May / Maybe)** it will snow this weekend.

6. They **(may / maybe)** have forgotten about the meeting.

7. **(May / Maybe)** it will be sunny later.

8. We **(may / maybe)** go to the beach if the weather is nice.

9. There **(may / maybe)** be a delay in the flight.

10. **(May / Maybe)** she will call you tomorrow.

Practice Exercise 4

Rewrite the sentences, switching between "may" and "maybe" to practice their usage for expressing probability.

1. It may rain later. -> _____ it will rain later.

2. Maybe she will join us for dinner. -> she _____ join us for dinner.

3. They may cancel the event. -> _____ they will cancel the event.

4. Maybe we will see a movie tonight. -> We _____ see a movie tonight.

5. He may have already left. -> _____ he has already left.

6. Maybe the store is closed. -> The store _____ be closed.

7. She may bring her friend along. -> _____ she will bring her friend along.

8. Maybe the package will arrive tomorrow. -> The package _____ arrive tomorrow.

ANSWERS

Follow up 8.1

1. S
2. D
3. D
4. S
5. S
6. S
7. S

Practice Exercise 1

1. The highways will certainly be busy tomorrow

2. Perhaps it will snow in the morning

3. The country's population will probably decrease

4. The meeting might finish early, maybe the forecast will be wrong.

5. The flight may be delayed.

6. She will definitely win the election.

7. We will possibly have a few problems.

Practice Exercise 2

1. She will **certainly** get the job after such a successful interview.

2. They will **definitely** arrive by noon as planned.

3. It's **probably** going to rain tomorrow.

4. He will **probably** pass the exam with all the effort he's putting in.

5. They will **possibly** launch the new product next month.

6. **Maybe** the concert will be rescheduled due to the weather.

7. I will **perhaps** attend the meeting if my schedule allows.

8. It **might** rain later, so take an umbrella just in case.

Practice Exercise 3

1. It **may** rain tomorrow.
2. She **may** be late because of traffic.
3. **Maybe** we should take an umbrella, just in case.
4. He **may** not come to the party.
5. **Maybe** it will snow this weekend.
6. They **may** have forgotten about the meeting.
7. **Maybe** it will be sunny later.
8. We **may** go to the beach if the weather is nice.
9. There **may** be a delay in the flight.
10. **Maybe** she will call you tomorrow.

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7. She may bring her friend along. -> **Maybe** she will bring her friend along.
8. Maybe the package will arrive tomorrow. -> The package **may** arrive tomorrow.