

Adverbs

ADVERBS OF CERTAINTY

Adverbs of Certainty

Adverbs of certainty answer the question, “How sure?”

They tell us how certain or sure we feel about something.

They are placed after helper/modal verbs and before other verbs.

Negative sentences can seem strange at first.

Adverbs of Certainty – Examples #1

They are usually placed before the verb.

- Jane *definitely* went to work today.
- Ted *clearly* needs a lesson in manners.
- I *certainly* need a shower after going to the gym.

Adverbs of Certainty – Examples #2

But they are placed after helper/modal verbs and 'to be'.

- I would *certainly* be upset if you forgot my birthday.
- The train will *probably* arrive late again.
- Martin is *undoubtedly* the smartest one here.
- John has *certainly* forgotten our appointment.

Adverbs of Certainty – Examples #3

Negative sentences with adverbs of certainty can appear strange.

Consider the following sentence:

➤ It will *definitely* rain tomorrow.

Now make it negative – what do we do?

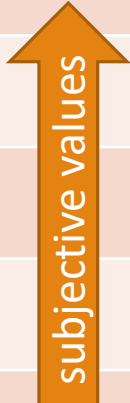
➤ ~~It won't (will not) *definitely* rain tomorrow.~~

➤ It will *definitely* not rain tomorrow.

➤ It *definitely* won't rain tomorrow.

Adverbs of Certainty

There are many adverbs of certainty and they can be ordered.

Adverb of certainty	Certainty	Example
definitely	100%	Those girls are <i>definitely</i> twins.
probably	 subjective values	Rob's not here – he <i>probably</i> went home.
maybe		<i>Maybe</i> we should leave now.
probably not		I will <i>probably not</i> get the promotion I was after.
definitely not	0%	Suzi will <i>definitely not</i> come to the party.