

Predicting and Forecasting

READ THE KEY EXPRESSIONS BELOW:

Key expressions used for predicting and forecasting

Asking for predictions:

- Is... likely to....? (*Is the office likely to close?*)
- Are ... likely to...? (*Are employees likely to quit?*)
- Do you think ...will...? (*Do you think we will return to the office soon?*)
- Do you expect...? (*Do you expect to see an increase in productivity?*)



Making predictions:

- ... will probably / definitely... (*Our employees will probably feel more motivated.*)
- ... probably / definitely won't.... (*It definitely won't be easy for people.*)
- ... is /are (more-less) likely / unlikely to... (*The office is unlikely to close completely. / "Teleworkers are less likely to get promoted because they are missing face-time with their bosses" - Adam Grant.*)

Expressing hope:

- I hope... will / won't .. (*We hope the new scheme will save the company a lot of money.*)
- Hopefully... will / won't ... (*Hopefully, our teleworkers will have similar results.*)

THINK AND CHECK:

Now, try to say each sentence in a different way using the word in brackets.

- 1 Do you think you'll be more productive? (expect)
 - 2 I'm sure we'll save money. (definitely)
 - 3 I hope I won't work in the evenings. (Hopefully)
 - 4 You'll probably find it difficult at first. (likely)
 - 5 I'm unlikely to work from home. (probably)
- Example: Do you expect to be more productive?*

Write them down in your notebook and then check your answers on the following page:

- 2- We'll definitely save money.
- 3- Hopefully, I won't work in the evenings.
- 4- You're likely to find it difficult at first.
- 5- I probably won't work from home

1 Put the words in the correct order to make complete sentences.

- 1 find / the / Is / likely / solution / to / government / a
Is the government likely to find a solution _____?
- 2 you / improve / think / will / the / Do / situation
_____?
- 3 I / have / we / factory / close / won't / hope / to / the
_____.
- 4 staff / support / will / The / decision / definitely / the
_____.
- 5 the / likely / new / affect / Are / rules / to / us
_____?
- 6 probably / decrease / before / Unemployment / won't / 2025
_____.
- 7 future / free / have / unlikely / We're / to / time / more / the / in
_____.

2 Rewrite sentences 1–6 with the words in brackets.

- 1 Will the manager listen to our demands? (likely)
Is the manager likely to listen to our demands _____?
- 2 Will they find a substitute for oil? (likely)
Are they _____?
- 3 The plastics industry is likely to be affected first. (probably)
The plastics industry _____.
- 4 Food prices will probably rise dramatically. (likely)
Food prices _____.
- 5 Standards of living are certain not to go up. (definitely)
Standards of living _____.
- 6 I hope we'll develop renewable energy. (hopefully)
_____ renewable energy.

3 Complete the extract from a radio interview with the words in the list.

hopefully likely ~~think~~ are probably will

A So, what do you ¹ think are the most urgent effects of climate change to deal with?

B Well, water levels are rising and many coastal areas ² _____ likely to be flooded in the future.

³ _____, governments ⁴ _____ take more measures to protect communities near the sea. If they don't, a lot of people will ⁵ _____ die.

A Are we doing enough to cut carbon emissions?

B I think there are positive signs. If governments, companies and each of us continue to reduce our carbon footprint, global warming is ⁶ _____ to slow down as scientists have predicted.