



MODALS for POSSIBILITY, UNCERTAINTY, CERTAINTY

(I) Possibility & Uncertainty (May, Might, Could + V1)

*to describe things that will possibly happen

e.g. The earthquake may/might/ could happen tomorrow.

Use may not V1 and might + V1 to describe things that will possibly not happen in the future

e.g. The earthquake may not happen/ might not happen for another 30 years. It is impossible to predict exactly.

(II) Possibility with Can + V1 – to describe possibility in general but not with a future time reference

e.g. During an earthquake people can suffer injuries.

(III) Certainty- Use will + V1 – when we are certain something will happen in the future

e.g. During a strong earthquake some older buildings will collapse.

We use must + V1 when we are certain something is true(usually with be) , or when we suppose what a situation is like.

e.g. I've never been in an earthquake. It must be really frightening. (I'm sure)

e.g. You've worked a lot. You must feel tired. (I'm certain you do)

(IV) Negative Certainty – can't V1 (negative deduction)

When we are certain something is not true or impossible

e.g. That can't be an earthquake. We don't have earthquakes here!

Add the correct modal to the prediction(Will-May-Might):

People develop telepathy in the future(impossible)

The space explorers find water on Mars(probable)

Regular trips to space be available in the next century(possible)

One day they find life on other planets(possibly possible)

We ever know everything(impossible)

It be sunny tomorrow(probable)

It be cloudy in June(possible)

It rain in May(possibly possible)

Rewrite each sentence

1. It is possible that there will be no snow-covered mountains in Europe by then. (might)

There-----

2. It is possible that areas in the South of Europe will become deserts. (could)

Areas-----

3. If it is not an acid, or an alkali then it is sure to be neutral. (must)

It-----

4. I am sure you know the difference between a solid and a gas! (must)

You-----

5. It is possible that summers will become longer and hotter, and winters will become warmer. (may)

Summers-----

6. There is small possibility of snow later.

It-----

7. There is a good possibility we will move to Marmaris.

We-----

8. That show has a small chance of getting success.

That show-----

9. There is good possibility that we will go to London on holiday this summer.

We-----

10. There is good chance of an earthquake in Istanbul soon. (hit)

An earthquake-----

11. There is good chance they will win a Nobel with their contribution to science.

They-----

12. There is very small chance that he will pass the exam

He-----

Complete the prediction with the correct form of WILL/ MIGHT/ MAY and the verbs given

agree-increase-be- go- find- do- become

1. Prices -----in the next 3 months owing to economic crisis. (definite)

2. People-----to Venus in the next century. (impossible)

3. There -----more hurricanes here. (definite)

4. Scientists -----life on Mars. (small possibility)

5. United Nations -----anything to stop the war between Ukraine and Russia. (impossible)

6. Summers -----hotter and hotter. (good chance)

7. The school principals -----on effective measures to compensate the learning loss of disadvantaged students due to Covid 19. (slight possibility)

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