4A *will, may* and *might* for predictions

We use *will* and *won't* (=*will not*) + infinitive to make predictions about the future. We usually use the contraction *'ll* after personal pronouns such as *I, he, she*, etc. and after *there*.

It'll be sunny tomorrow. *It definitely won't rain.*
There'll be lots of traffic tonight. *She won't be here on time.*

We often use *probably* to say that the prediction is less sure. *Probably* comes after *will* and before *won't*.

I'll probably go to the gym tonight.
You probably won't see Karen tomorrow.

We use *may* and *might* + infinitive to say that a prediction is possible. There is no difference in meaning between *may* and *might*.

He may be hungry when he gets home.
There might not be any food on the flight.

We don't use *may* or *might* to make questions.

Will the exam be difficult? NOT ~~*Might the exam be difficult?*~~

We can use *may* and *might* to reply to questions.

Will he get the job? He might. I'm not sure.
Will it rain tomorrow? It might, or it might not!

4.3	will	may	might
+	It'**ll rain** tomorrow.	It **may snow** tomorrow.	It **might be** windy.
–	She **won't pass** the exam.	Kelly **may not come**.	Jorge **might not arrive** on time.
?	**Will** she **be** the next president?		
Y/N	Yes, she **will**. / No, she **won't**.	Yes, she **may**. / No, she **may not**.	Yes, she **might**. / No, she **might not**.

Look! We often make predictions with *I think* ... or *I don't think* ... to show it is our opinion.
I think he'll win the race.
I don't think she'll lose her job. NOT ~~*I think she won't lose her job*~~.

1 Write sentences using the correct form of *will, may* and *might*.

1 It / probably / rain / tomorrow (will)
_____
2 You / need / your car (may not)
_____
3 I / don't think / we / see / you later (will)
_____
4 We / have time / to get a coffee? (will)
_____
5 She / come / to the meeting later (might)
_____
6 They / probably / go / on holiday next year (won't)
_____
7 I / think / there / be / lots of people / at the party (will)
_____
8 What do you think / happen? (will)
_____

2 Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.

1 They *will* / *might* go on holiday to France, but they haven't got much money so they *'ll* / *might* probably just stay at home.
2 I don't think that England *will* / *may* win the next World Cup. I'm sure it *will* / *may* be Germany.
3 I probably *won't* / *may not* come to the cinema, but I *'ll* / *may* be able to meet you afterwards. Can I text you later to let you know?
4 I'm sure *you 'll* / *might* pass your exam. *Will* / *Might* they tell you the result straight away?
5 It's certain that robots *will* / *may* become a part of all our lives. Who knows – a robot *will* / *may* even become president!
6 I know that *you 'll* / *might* really like Michael. You *'ll* / *might* meet him this weekend, although I'm not sure because his father's not well at the moment.

3 Complete the predictions with *will* or *won't* and the verbs in the box.

buy choose come become exist use
go shopping increase live understand

What will the world be like in 2050?

1 The world's population _____ to more than nine billion people.
2 Scientists _____ more about diseases and people _____ for longer.
3 Parents _____ the sex of their baby.
4 We _____ oil and gas for electricity. Most of our energy _____ from solar power.
5 Some islands _____ anymore as sea levels increase. Some animals _____ extinct.
6 People _____ in the high street. Instead, they _____ everything online.

◀ Go back to page 31

LIVEWORKSHEETS