



07 – VOCABULARY: PROBABILITY



PROBABLE

1. **bound to** = certain: “They are bound to succeed!”
2. **sure to** = certain: “He is sure to win the championship.”
3. **likely to** = probable: “We are likely to win the contract.”
4. **definite** = sure: “He’s a definite frontrunner for the job!”
5. **probable**: “It’s probable that we will be on holiday around then.”
6. **likely**: “An election is likely next year.”
7. **will definitely happen**: “There will definitely be a storm later.”
8. **will probably happen**: “They will probably take on more staff.”

POSSIBLE

9. **may**: “We may be able to help you.”
10. **might**: “There might be a holiday next month – I’m not sure.”
11. **could**: “There could be a bug in the system.”
12. ... **is possible**: “Do you think he will resign?” “Yes, that’s possible.”
13. ... **is unlikely**: “It’s unlikely that she will move.”
14. **will possibly**: “She’ll possibly tell us tomorrow.”
15. **probably won’t**: “They probably won’t hear until next week.”
16. **definitely won’t**: “I definitely won’t go to the party.”
17. ... **is highly unlikely**: “It’s highly unlikely the company will expand.”

MAKING PREDICTIONS

18. “What do you think **will** happen next year?”
19. “Next week **is going to** be very busy, I think.”
20. “There **won’t** be a rise in house prices next year.”
21. “He **isn’t going to** win the election.”

PREDICTIONS BASED ON WHAT YOU KNOW NOW

*We can make predictions based on what we can see now. To do this, we use **going to** and the verb (not **will**). For example:*

22. “Watch out! **You’re going to hit** that car in front.”
23. “**It’s going to be** a lovely day today – not a cloud in the sky.”