



Presentation

Use *will*, *may* and *might* to make predictions.

will / won't

Use *will* / *won't* when you're confident about the prediction.

It'll rain on Saturday.

It won't rain on Sunday.

will / won't + adverbs

Use *will* with the adverbs *certainly* and *definitely* when you are 100% certain something will happen:

I'll definitely be free on Saturday.

Use *will* with the adverb *probably* when you are 70% certain something will happen:

I'll probably be busy on Sunday.

Notice the position of the adverb with *will* / *won't*:

It'll definitely be sunny on Sunday.

(The adverb comes after *will*.)

It definitely won't rain on Sunday.

(The adverb comes before *won't*.)

may / might

Use *may* (*not*) or *might* (*not*) when you are less confident about a prediction:

It might/may not rain. (= it's possible that it will rain but it's also possible that it won't.)

TIP There is no difference in meaning between *may* or *might*, but *might* is used more in everyday spoken English.

will / may / might + be able to

Use *will* / *won't* / *might* / *may not* + *be able to* to make predictions about ability:

I'll be able to come on Saturday.

I may not be able to come on Sunday.

Exercises

1 Put the words in order to make sentences with predictions.

- 1 the / mobile phones / important technology / become / will / most / in our lives
- 2 won't / use / computers / we / in our daily life
- 3 definitely / disappear forever / will / traditional letters
- 4 we / won't / in the future / probably / emails / send
- 5 might / it / snow / tomorrow
- 6 I / may / be / to come / not / able

2 Complete the sentences with the adverb in brackets.

- 1 Computers in the future will look very different. (probably)
- 2 In fact, they won't look anything like computers as we know them today. (probably)
- 3 But they will be part of everything we use. (certainly)
- 4 Our televisions will include computer technology that can download films and programmes directly from the internet. (definitely)
- 5 We won't change the way we use personal music players. (definitely)
- 6 But new technology will make it possible to download music directly onto the players without using a computer. (probably)

3 Rewrite the sentences using the modal verb in brackets.

- 1 It's possible that Sue will get a new job. (may)
Sue
- 2 I don't think I'll go to the meeting tomorrow. (might)
I
- 3 It's possible that Luis won't be here tomorrow. (may)
Luis
- 4 There's a chance Jess and Marcos won't get married this year. (might)
Jess and Marcos
- 5 We're thinking of asking Katie to look after the children. (may)
We
- 6 We probably won't take a summer holiday this year. (might)
We

4 Read this interview with an expert on transport in the future. Choose the correct options.

- Interviewer: Good morning Doctor Lacey. In one of your articles you say we ¹definitely won't / *may not* have cars by the end of the century. Why are you so certain?
- Lacey: Actually I didn't say that. I said we ²*will definitely* / *definitely won't* have cars that use traditional fuel. There isn't enough oil in the world. But it's difficult to say what we will use in its place. We ³*will* / *might* use water or air, but it's hard to predict.
- Interviewer: What about planes? Do you think they ⁴*will be able to* / *are able to* fly without oil?
- Lacey: Well, I think all cars ⁵*will* / *might* definitely fly in the future, so it's possible that we ⁶*may* / *may not* need planes in the future.
- Interviewer: Really? When do you think this will happen?
- Lacey: It ⁷*probably won't* / *definitely won't* happen in my lifetime – I have no doubt about that – but I think my grandchildren ⁸*will probably* / *probably won't* fly their cars to work.
- Interviewer: And what about travel through time?
- Lacey: No, that's impossible. We ⁹*won't be able* / *may not be able to* do that.