

# Adverbs of possibility

What are adverbs of possibility?

4

## Adverbs of possibility

One of the ways we use adverbs is to show how possible or likely something is.

We might use **perhaps, surely, certainly, possibly, definitely** and **obviously**.

Adverbs of possibility usually come in front of the main verb.

Will they **definitely** be there?

We will **possibly** come to England next year.

However, they come after **am, is, are, was, were**.

They are **definitely** at home.

She was **obviously** very surprised.



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Now have a go at these activities:

## Activity 1

Underline the adverb that shows possibility in each of the sentences below.  
One has been done for you.

Perhaps he is too tired to come to the party.

- a) She was clearly very emotional.
- b) I'm too busy tomorrow; could I possibly come the day after?
- c) He has obviously misunderstood the instructions.
- d) They are certainly going to be there!
- e) Maybe the message was never received.
- f) The sun will definitely rise in the morning.
- g) I am possibly the last to arrive.
- h) Kim is certainly the smallest girl I know.

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## Activity 2

Rewrite each sentence, putting the adverb of possibility in the correct place.

- a) Dad will come home early today. (probably)
- b) The car will become rusty with age. (inevitably)
- c) I can't think of a better reason. (possibly)
- d) The test won't be so hard next time. (maybe)
- e) I will call if my plans change. (certainly)
- f) I am going to make a complaint. (definitely)
- g) We will be late if we don't leave now. (surely)
- h) I am impressed by your efforts. (truly)

## Activity 3

Look at the table below. Use each adverb of possibility in a sentence.

<b>certainly</b>	
<b>definitely</b>	
<b>maybe</b>	
<b>possibly</b>	
<b>clearly</b>	
<b>obviously</b>	
<b>perhaps</b>	
<b>probably</b>	