

EXPRESSING CERTAINTY AND UNCERTAINTY

A2-B1 | Functional language for saying how sure you are

1 Useful phrase patterns

Use these phrases to show if you are sure, or if you do not know for certain.

I'm sure ...

I'm sure she is at home.

I think ...

I think the shop is open.

probably

It will probably rain later.

definitely

He will definitely call.

I'm not sure ...

I'm not sure where it is.

maybe

Maybe we can go tomorrow.

perhaps

Perhaps they are busy.

I don't think ...

I don't think it is far.

2 Respond to the situations

Write one sentence for each situation. Choose a phrase that shows the right level of certainty.

1. You can see dark clouds. Say what you think about the weather.

2. You haven't heard from your friend today. Suggest a possible reason.

3. Your train is usually on time. Say what you expect today.

4. You do not know the answer to a homework question.

5. You see the lights on in a house. Say what you think.

6. Your friend asks if a new cafe is expensive, but you do not know.

7. Your teacher says the exam starts at nine. Say what you know.

8. You think your team will win, but you cannot be completely sure.

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A2-B1 | Suggested answers

3 Possible answers

These are examples only. Other accurate and suitable responses are also correct.

Encourage students to use a range of phrase patterns from page 1.

1. I think it will probably rain soon.

2. Perhaps my friend is busy today.

3. The train will probably arrive on time.

4. I'm not sure how to answer this question.

5. I think someone is at home.

6. I'm not sure if the cafe is expensive.

7. The exam definitely starts at nine.

8. I think our team will probably win.
