

EXPRESSING CERTAINTY AND UNCERTAINTY

B2-C1 | Functional language for showing confidence and doubt

1 Useful phrase patterns

Use these phrases to express a measured level of confidence or doubt.

I'm confident that ...

I'm confident that the plan will work.

There is a good chance that ...

There is a good chance that sales will rise.

It's highly likely that ...

It's highly likely that they will agree.

I wouldn't be surprised if ...

I wouldn't be surprised if it takes longer.

I'm not entirely convinced that ...

I'm not entirely convinced that it is necessary.

It is possible that ...

It is possible that the figures are wrong.

There may be ...

There may be a simpler solution.

I can't be certain, but ...

I can't be certain, but they seem interested.

2 Respond to the situations

Write one sentence for each situation. Make the level of certainty clear.

1. The pilot project has produced strong results in two locations.

2. A colleague says a quick online survey gives enough detail.

3. A delivery is late, but there is no update from the supplier.

4. A new policy has support from several senior managers.

5. The team is using figures from a report published five years ago.

6. A client has asked many detailed questions about a proposal.

7. The project has a tight deadline and two people are absent.

8. A company is considering expanding into a market with little data.

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B2-C1 | 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'm confident that the pilot will work in other locations.

2. I'm not entirely convinced that an online survey gives enough detail.

3. It is possible that the supplier has had a transport problem.

4. It is highly likely that the policy will be approved.

5. There may be more recent figures that we should check.

6. There is a good chance that the client is seriously interested.

7. I wouldn't be surprised if the deadline needs to move.

8. I can't be certain, but we may need more research before expanding.
