

EXPRESSING CERTAINTY AND UNCERTAINTY

B2-C1 | Conversation practice examples for showing confidence and doubt

Conversation: Assessing an application

Tessa	The funder has asked for more details about our community garden. Is that a positive sign?
Karim	There's a good chance that they're interested. They wouldn't usually ask about the planting schedule otherwise.
Tessa	I hope so. They also questioned the equipment budget, which worries me.
Karim	I'm not entirely convinced that they'd reject us over that. They may just need a clearer breakdown.
Tessa	We can explain which tools are shared and which we already own.
Karim	Yes. I'm confident that we can justify the amount if we show how we calculated it.
Tessa	Would you order anything before we hear their decision?
Karim	No. I can't be certain, but the response sounds encouraging. That's not the same as having the funding confirmed.

Key phrases: There's a good chance that / I'm not entirely convinced that / I'm confident that / I can't be certain, but

Conversation: Interpreting a library closure notice

Ruth	The notice says the library will close for essential work, but it doesn't give a reopening date.
Malik	It's possible that they're waiting for the contractor to confirm how long the repairs will take.
Ruth	I hadn't thought of that. Do you expect the children's activities to be cancelled?
Malik	Not necessarily. There may be another room they can use at the community centre.
Ruth	It's already booked for some classes, though.
Malik	Then I wouldn't be surprised if they move only the smaller groups there and postpone the rest.
Ruth	I'll ask before telling parents anything. We don't want to give them the wrong information.
Malik	Agreed. With no venue confirmed, it's highly likely that the organisers are still working through the options.

Key phrases: It's possible that / There may be / I wouldn't be surprised if / it's highly likely that

Create your own conversation

Choose one prompt. Use at least two key phrases and include a natural response and follow-up.

Prompt 1: Discuss how promising an application looks without treating interest as a confirmed decision.

Prompt 2: Interpret an incomplete public notice. Explore likely arrangements while identifying what is still unconfirmed.