

MAKING PREDICTIONS

B2-C1 | Conversation practice examples for forecasting and anticipating change

Conversation: Preparing for a new transport link

Shop owner	The new tram stop opens next spring. Do you think it will make much difference to this street?
Planner	It's likely that more people will pass through, especially those changing from the bus.
Shop owner	Will that mean more customers, or just more people walking past?
Planner	We can expect some extra trade, but shops will still need to give people a reason to stop.
Shop owner	I'm considering opening earlier. The first trams will arrive before eight.
Planner	I anticipate that morning demand will grow, though I'd test the earlier hours before changing your whole rota.
Shop owner	Would you expect the effect to be immediate?
Planner	Not entirely. It seems likely that travel habits will take a few months to settle, so I'd compare more than the first week's sales.

Key phrases: It's likely that / We can expect / I anticipate that / It seems likely that

Conversation: Planning for next year's course

Coordinator	Applications for the evening course are already higher than they were at this point last year.
Tutor	I'd predict that we'll need a second group if the same proportion of applicants enrolls.
Coordinator	Do you think we should hire another tutor now?
Tutor	There's every chance that the course will fill, but I'd confirm how many applicants can attend the proposed times first.
Coordinator	We sent that question yesterday. The early replies look positive.
Tutor	Then the outlook is encouraging. We should at least check room and tutor availability while we wait.
Coordinator	The new booking system should make the timetable easier to manage, too.
Tutor	Yes. This is expected to reduce clashes, although we'll still need someone to review the final schedule.

Key phrases: I'd predict that / There's every chance that / the outlook is / This is expected to

Create your own conversation

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

Prompt 1: Forecast the effect of a transport change on a business. Distinguish an expectation from a guarantee.

Prompt 2: Use early demand figures to predict future capacity needs. Discuss preparations and what still needs confirming.