



Use
modals
to
express
how
sure
you are
about
what's
going to
happen.

Use Modals for Probability

English has wonderful words we call modal verbs. Modals are great because they transmit information in a simple way. Today we will use them to talk about future probability.

Sure

When you are certain something will happen use *will*, as in “Joss will pay his debt tomorrow” or “I’ll catch the morning flight to Pasadena.”

Likely

If you think future possibilities are not one hundred per cent but still high go for *should*. “It should work; we’ve repaired the engine” or “The train should appear any minute now”.

Possible

When chances are about fifty per cent we can use *could*.
"It could rain tomorrow" or "Sales could slow down after the summer".

Unlikely

If probabilities are not that high but there's still a chance, choose *may* or *might* (might is less probable).

"We may still make a profit if the weather improves next month" or "Ryan might have better chances to find a job when the economy recovers."

Impossible

When there are zero possibilities apply *won't* or *can't*, as in these examples: "The IT department won't work all day tomorrow" or "We can't deliver anything next week".

Andrew's advice: If you want to exactly describe probability you can add adverbs such as "It could *never* happen this way" or "She will *surely* win the competition."

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