

Functions: Certainty and Uncertainty

EXPRESSING CERTAINTY

When you are sure that something will or will not happen in the future, use these expressions.

For example to the question:

"Will John pass the exam?"

you may respond as follows:

Yes,	I'm	absolutely sure	he will.
		quite sure	
		certain	
		positive	
		definitely.	
		certainly.	
		of course.	

or

No,	I'm	absolutely sure	he won't.
		quite sure	
		certain	
		positive	
		definitely not.	
		certainly not.	
		of course not.	

EXPRESSING UNCERTAINTY

When you are not sure whether something or someone will or will not happen, use the following expressions.

For example, to the question:

"Will John follow a career in business?"

you may respond as follows:

Well,	it's possible, it's impossible, it might be, it might not be, it could happen,	...
	you never know of course, no one can know for certain. I can't tell you for sure.	...
I suppose,	but	I wouldn't like to say for certain. I'm not sure I doubt it. I have my own doubts. it's doubtful. It's highly / very unlikely.

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