

Predictions – Teacher’s notes

Level: Pre-intermediate (equivalent to CEF level A2–B1)

Aim: To practise predictions with *may, might, will* and adverbs *maybe, perhaps, possibly, probably, certainly, definitely* by talking about headlines from newspapers of the future.

Preparation: Make a copy of the worksheet for every member of the class.

Procedure

- 1 Write at the top of the board: *I’ll be at English class next week.*
- 2 Ask students, *How can you change the sentences so the prediction is more or less probable?* Put 100% at the top of the board and an arrow down to 0% at the bottom. Write their suggestions in the correct place on the arrow.
100% I’ll definitely/certainly be there.
 I’ll probably be there.
 Maybe/Perhaps I’ll be there. OR I may/might be there. OR I’ll possibly be there.
 I probably won’t be there.
- 3 Ask, *Where does definitely come in a sentence?* (after *will* but before *won’t*). *Which other words have the same sentence position?* (*probably, certainly* and *possibly*).
- 4 Tell students they are going to talk about headlines from newspapers of the future. Hand out a copy of the worksheet to every student and ask them to look at Activity 1.
- 5 Put students into pairs. They comment on how likely the headlines are to become a reality, using the expressions on the board.
- 6 Each pair chooses one of the headlines and prepares a 30-second TV news report. One person should be in the news studio asking questions, and the other should be a roving reporter, giving a brief outline of the story.
- 7 Pairs present their news report to the class.
- 8 Students work in groups. They look at the list of subjects in Activity 2 and discuss predictions about the future.
- 9 As a class, discuss the language used in headlines. Ask, *Which tense is usually used? What words are often missing?*
- 10 In pairs, students think of three headlines to write in Activity 3, on any three of the subjects in Activity 2.
- 11 Students read out their headlines to the class. The class votes on the most likely, the most unlikely and the funniest.