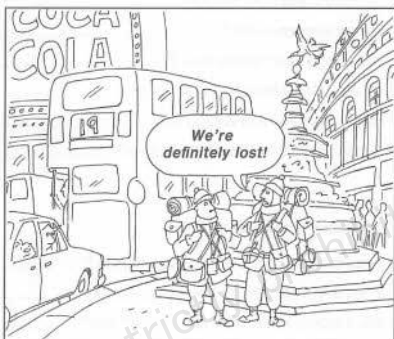


# Adverbials of probability and degree

## 1 You use adverbials of probability to say how sure you are about something:

certainly definitely probably perhaps possibly maybe

I **definitely** saw her yesterday. The driver **probably** knows the quickest way.



All adverbials of probability (except *maybe*) come before the main verb:

He can **probably** answer your question. They will **certainly** help you.

OR: after the verbs *am, is, are, was, were* when these are used as main verbs:

I **am** **certainly** very tired. You are **probably** right.

Some adverbials of probability can come at the beginning of the sentence:

perhaps maybe probably possibly

**Maybe** Annette can tell you. **Perhaps** he has forgotten.

**Probably** they'll come later. **Possibly** she didn't understand.

## 2 Common adverbials of degree/frequency: a lot; (not) much; very much

Sometimes these words are used as adverbials of frequency:

The baby cries **a lot**. (*a lot* = very often) We don't go out **much**. (*not much* = not often)

Sometimes they are adverbs of degree:

Did it rain **very much** last night? (*very much* = very heavily)

**a lot, (not) much and very much** usually come at the end of their clause:

Things haven't changed **much**. They always shout **a lot**.

We enjoyed the film **very much**. Do you play football **very much**?

**but they are sometimes followed by an expression of time or place:**

We enjoyed the film **very much** last night. Things haven't changed **much** here.

**WARNING:** *much* is not used in affirmative sentences. You do not say:

I liked it **much**.

You say:

I liked it **a lot**, OR I liked it **very much**.

**A Use adverbs of probability to write true sentences (you may need to add the word *not* as well):**

- The USA will win the next football World Cup.  
The USA will definitely not win the next football World Cup.
- My country will win the next football World Cup. \_\_\_\_\_
- I am the oldest person in my class. \_\_\_\_\_
- I will go away for a holiday this summer. \_\_\_\_\_
- It will rain tomorrow. \_\_\_\_\_
- The next leader of my country will be a woman. \_\_\_\_\_
- I will get married next year. \_\_\_\_\_
- I will get most of these sentences right. \_\_\_\_\_

**B Six of these sentences are correct and five have mistakes. Find the sentences which are wrong and write them out correctly underneath.**

- Nearly I have finished this exercise. **X** I have nearly finished this exercise.
- I cut myself this morning, and it hurt a lot. \_\_\_\_\_
- I like a lot your new dress. \_\_\_\_\_
- We don't work very much at the weekend. \_\_\_\_\_
- This is a very good book. I enjoyed it much. \_\_\_\_\_
- He is very lazy. He doesn't help very much his parents. \_\_\_\_\_
- I have almost finished this exercise. \_\_\_\_\_
- People say that it rains a lot in England. \_\_\_\_\_
- I always enjoy very much the weekend. \_\_\_\_\_
- I don't work much at the weekend. \_\_\_\_\_



- They are very noisy children. They shout a lot. \_\_\_\_\_