

Vocabulary - Key Words and Phrases

Conversation 1

Highly likely - very probable or expected to happen.

Unlikely - not expected to occur.

Olympic village - Apartments that hosts athletes during the Olympic Games.

Protocols must be met - specific procedures or rules need to be followed.

It's a given - something that is assumed to be true or certain.

Fingers crossed - an expression used to express hope for a good outcome.

Conversation 2

Merge with - to combine two companies.

Very likely - highly probable.

Slight possibility - a small chance that something might happen.

Fairly likely - reasonably probable.

Don't quote me on it - A phrase expressing a statement might not be accurate.

Only time will tell - A phrase expressing an outcome will only become clear in the future.

Conversation 3

Face-to-face classes - in-person instruction, as opposed to online.

Back to normal - returning to the usual state of things after a disruption.

Anything is possible - acknowledging that various outcomes could occur.

Up in the air - uncertain or undecided.

Conversation 4

No-shows - people who are expected but do not attend.

Slight chance - a small probability.

In other words - used to simplify an explanation.

Grammar - Expressing Likelihood and Possibility

Point 1: Speakers can hedge their statements by adding a clause to express probability. The pronoun 'it' becomes the subject,

- We probably will not finish on time.
It is unlikely that we will finish on time.
- We will probably reach our goal.
It's highly likely that we will reach our goal.

Point 2: If something is **probable**, then it is **likely**.

- **The company will probably go bankrupt.**
It is highly likely the company will go bankrupt.
- **Most students should pass the class.**
It is very likely that most students will pass the class.

Point 3: If something is **not probable**, then use **unlikely** or **not likely**.

- The event is in winter, so it probably not be warm outside.
The event is in winter, so it is unlikely it will be warm outside.
- By the end of the money, most of my money will probably be spent.
By the end of the month, it is unlikely that I will have any money left.

Point 4: Something adverbs **highly** (strong) and **fairly** (medium) add intensity.

1. It is highly unlikely that we finish by tomorrow. (low chance)
2. It is highly likely that the two companies merge. (strong chance)
3. It is fairly likely that the event will be canceled. (might happen)
4. It is fairly unlikely that that will happen. (probably not)

Point 5: Likelihood is also expressed with the nouns chance, possibility, and doubt.

1. There is a good chance it will rain.
2. There is a strong possibility that we can work from home.
3. There is a slight possibility that I get transferred
4. There is no doubt that people want to travel again.

Possibility and Likelihood

Watch four videos showing **possibility and likelihood** in conversation.

Conversation 1 | [PDF Worksheet](#)

Man: So, have you heard any news about the Tokyo Olympics?

Woman: Yes, now it seems **highly likely** that it will take place.

Man: Will tourist be allowed in the country?

Woman: That is **unlikely**, but some people might get access.

Man: Where will the athletes stay?

Woman: Well, there is *a slight possibility* there will be an Olympic village.

Man: What is *the likelihood of* that?

Woman: It's *highly unlikely*, but the organizers are leaving the possibility open.

Man: How *likely* is it that local residents can attend the games?

Woman: There is *a strong possibility* that can happen, but protocols must be met.

Man: Well, it's a given that the games will be on TV. So at least we have that.

Woman: Yes, fingers crossed it all goes well.

Conversation 2 | [PDF Worksheet](#)

Man: So, did you hear the news?

Woman: No, what did you hear?

Man: The company is going to merge with our biggest competitor.

Woman: What does that mean for the company? How will that affect us?

Man: Well, it is *unlikely* anyone will lose their job, but it is very likely we will move offices.

Woman: Oh, no. I quite like it here.

Man: Well, I hear there is *a slight possibility* that some people will be able to work from home.

Woman: How *likely* is that? I would love to work from home.

Man: Well, it's *fairly likely* but don't quote me on it.

Woman: What is *the likelihood* that we change the company name?

Man: It is *a slight possibility* but I don't see that happening, yet.

Woman: I would be foolish to do that. We have a well-known brand name and a catchy logo.

Man: I agree. Anyway, it is *highly unlikely* there will be any changes anytime soon.

Woman: Change is good I guess. That's what they say.

Man: Yes, only time will tell.

Conversation 3 | [PDF Worksheet](#)

Woman: So professor, when do you think we will have face-to-face classes again?

Man: I'm not sure, but it seems *very likely* things will be back to normal in the fall semester.

Woman: What about next semester?

Man: Well, anything is possible, but it seems *unlikely* to go back to being back to face-to-face.

Woman: And what about the campus. What is *the likelihood* that the campus is open once again?

Man: Again, I don't know for sure, but I think there is *a strong possibility* that it will be open.

Woman: And what about you? Professor, will you be teaching on campus or at home?

Man: Again, I just don't know. Everything is still up in the air.

Woman: OK, professor. Thanks for answering my questions.

Conversation 4 | [PDF Worksheet](#)

Man: So, who is going to be at the party tonight?

Woman: Well, it's *likely* that most people will be there.

Man: Are we expecting any no-shows?

Woman: Well, it's *unlikely* that Susan and her family will be there.

Man: What about Tom and his family? Can they make it?

Woman: Well, they have a new baby, but they said there is *a slight chance* they will come. It all depends on the baby.

Man: In other words, it is *highly unlikely*.

Woman: Yes, that's probably true.

Quiz

Answer these questions about the interview.

1) What do they say about having games on TV?

a) It is unlikely

b) It is a given

c) There is a strong possibility

2) What will they likely do?

a) Move offices

b) Work from home

c) Change the logo

3) What are they talking about?

a) A test

b) An assignment

c) Classes on campus

4) Why is it unlikely Tom will attend the party?

a) He is sick.

b) He has work.

c) He has a baby.

Gap Fill: Complete the conversation with the correct word!

Question 1 of 4

Drag the boxes onto the matching gaps.

- likely
- slight
- likelihood
- access

- possibility
- protocols
- crossed
- organizers

- tourists
- highly

Man: So, have you heard any news about the Tokyo Olympics?

Woman: Yes, now it seems ___ likely that it will take place.

Man: Will ___ be allowed in the country?

Woman: That is unlikely, but some people might get ___.

Man: Where will they stay?

Woman: Well, there is a ___ possibility there will be an Olympic village.

Man: What is the ___ of that?

Woman: It's highly unlikely, but the ___ are leaving the possibility open.

Man: I see. How ___ is it that local residents can attend the games?

Woman: There is a strong ___ that can happen, but ___ must be met.

Man: Well, it's a given that the games will be on TV. So at least we have that.

Woman: Yes, fingers ___ it all goes well.

Question 2 of 4

Drag the boxes onto the matching gaps.

- merge
- foolish
- guess
- possibility

- unlikely
- How
- logo
- fairly

- competitor
- likelihood

Man: So, did you hear the news?

Woman: No, what did you hear?

Man: The company is going to ___ with our biggest ___.

Woman: What does that mean for the company? ___ will that affect us?

Man: Well, it is ___ anyone will lose their job, but it is very likely we will move offices.

Woman: Oh, no. I quite like it here.

Man: Well, I hear there is a slight ___ that some people will be able to work from home.

Woman: How likely is that? I would love to work from home.

Man: Well, it's ___ likely but don't quote me on it.

Woman: What is the ___ that we change the company name?

Man: It is a slight possibility but I don't see that happening ... yet.

Woman: I would be ___ to do that. We have a well-known brand name and a catchy ___.

Man: I agree. Anyway, it is highly unlikely there will be any changes anytime soon.

Woman: Change is good I ____. That's what they say.

Man: Yes, only time will tell.

Question 3 of 4

Drag the boxes onto the matching gaps.

- up
- answering
- when

- semester
- sure
- campus

- possible
- teaching

Woman: So, professor, ___ do you think we will have face-to-face classes again?

Man: I'm not sure, but it seems very likely things will be back to normal in the fall semester.

Woman: What about next ___?

Man: Well, anything is ____, but it seems unlikely that we will go back to being back to face-to-face.

Woman: And what about the campus. What is the likelihood that the ___ is open once again?

Man: Again, I don't know for ____, but I think there is a strong possibility that it will be open.

Woman: And what about you? Professor, will you be ___ on campus or at home?

Man: Again, I just don't know. Everything is still ___ in the air.

Woman: OK, professor. Thanks for ___ my questions.

Question 4 of 4

Drag the boxes onto the matching gaps.

- party
- likely
- new

- depends
- chance
- expecting

- probably
- family

Man: So, who is going to the ___ tonight?

Woman: Well, it's ___ that most people will be there.

Man: Are we ___ any no-shows?

Woman: Well, it's unlikely that Susan and her ___ will be there.

Man: What about Tom and his family? Can they make it?

Woman: Well, they have a ___ baby, but they said there is a slight ___ they will come.
It all ___ on the baby.

Man: In other words, it is highly unlikely.

Woman: Yes, that's ___ true.