

Probability

Verb

Adj + Probability Expression

Noun

*

かもしれない "Might; maybe"

おそらく 多分 <たぶん> "Probably"
"Perhaps;
likely;
probably"

でしょう / だ
ろう "Pro-
bably" に違いない /
に違いありま
せん "For sure;
surely"

<20%

Formal Formal

50-50
chance

<80%

—Used when a chance of something happening is low

-Used in a business setting. **XXDONTs:** Cannot use to speculate listener's thoughts or feelings. But can be used to speculate the third party's feelings or thoughts

—Volitional form of the verb だ (to be).

—Big chance of something happening

XXDONTs: Not used in a business setting as it sounds childish.

—To speculate listener's thought or feelings

★★★ Modal Adverbs:

★★★ Words used with this grammar:

★★★ Modal Adverbs:

もしかしたら / もしかすると = Should both be understood as 'perhaps' or 'maybe' rather than probably. Given the hint in the name - もし means 'if'.

と思います. "I think..."

きっと

ひよっとしたら / ひよっとすると "Perhaps; maybe; possibly"

★★★ Words used with this grammar: ね / よ



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* (cont)

| | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| もしかしたら、明日- 雨が降るかもしれな い。 Tomorrow, it might rain. | おそらく 100万 円えんになると思 います。 I think it will probably be 1 million yen. | 多分ちがいま す。 That's probably wrong. | □□つかれているでしょ う。 You are probably tired. / You must be tired. | きっと、明日雨が降る に違いない。 Tomorrow, it will surely rain. |
|---|--|--|---|---|

| | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| 田中さんはパー ティーで寿司を食べ たかも。 Mr Tanaka might have eaten sushi at the party. | たぶんあの人は イギリス人だと思 う。 I think that person is probably British. | 【辛かった】つか ったでしょ。一人で 【寂しかった】さ びしかったですよ。 でももう大丈夫。 私があな たをまもるよ。 It must have been tough. You must've been lonely all alone. But it's okay now. I'll protect you. | 田中さんはパー ティーで寿司を食べ たに違いありません。 Mr Tanaka surely ate sushi at the party. |
|---|--|---|---|

| | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| 彼女は家で勉強して いるかも。 She is studying at home. | | 何かくさい。。。お ならしたろ。 Some thing smells... You farted, didn't you? (Making a specul ation) | パリのホテルは高 いに違いない。 Ho tels in Paris are su rely expensive. |
|--|--|--|---|

もしかしたらイギリ
ス人じゃないかな。
I think he's probably
British.

*

!□!□Note: かも is not a noun but a particle; thus you must omit な for な adjective. しれない comes from the verb しれる (to become known; to be obvious). しれない can be omitted but when you are going to add another sentence, you have to put かもしれない。

Adverbs of Probability

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 必ず (かならず)- "Certainly" | きっと "I'm sure..." "Surely..." | ぜひ "Please, by all means..." "I definitely want to..." | 確かに (たしかに) "Certa- inly" "Sure" * | 絶対 (ぜったいに) "Absolutely" |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|



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Adverbs of Probability (cont)

| | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| 100% certain | 80% correct prediction | ぜひ + したい / しょう / ください | 100% sure because you witnessed it yourself | 100% no matter what |
| -Use in affirmative sentence | -When you think YOUR prediction is 80% correct about things other than yourself such as: feelings and actions of other people and things you cannot control. | Nuance: It is not easy to do but I will achieve it | -Used for affirmative / negative sentence | -Same usage as 必ず) but this can be used in affirmative and negative sentence |
| XXDONTs: Can't use is negative sentence Like ないで、ません | -Used for affirmative / negative sentence | If you want to make a strong request with all your heart. This emphasizes strong feelings -Used in conjunction with the request representation, aspiration, solicitation XXDONTs: Can't use is negative sentence | XXDONTs: Not used in the future tense | |
| その本はかならず売れる。That book will certainly sell. | あの人はきっとおまつりに行かないよ。That person surely will not go to the festival. | 私はぜひそこで【働く】はたらきたい。I would really like to work there. | たしかに、このペンはとても書きやすいです。This pen is certainly very easy to write with. | ぜったいにダメです。Absolutely not. |
| 彼は必ずここに来ます。He will definitely come here. | きっとごうかくします。I'm sure I will pass. | ぜひ、こんど家へ遊びに来てください。Definitely please come over to hang out sometime. | 確かに【合格】ごうかくしました。I'm certainly sure I passed. / Surely passed. | 明日はぜったいに7時に起きます。Absolutely, I will get up at 7 o'clock tomorrow. |



Adverbs of Probability (cont)

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| 私は必ずごうかくします。 I will definitely pass. | 私の日本語は(きっと/必ず)よくなりま す。 My Japanese will definitely improve. | ぜひ【合格】ごうかくしたいです。 I definitely want to pass. (It is difficult but I will pass) | 絶対に【合格】ごうか くします。 Absolutely pass. |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|



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