

Lesson Plan: Possibility and probability

Level: Intermediate (B1/B2)

Time: 60 minutes

Topic: Using modals and probability expressions to talk about the possibility and/or probability of something happening.

Objective:

- Students will be able to express different degrees of possibility using modal verbs (might, may, could, must, can't) and probability expressions (probably, possibly, definitely, etc.).
- Students will practice both speaking and listening comprehension.

1. Warm-Up (10 mins)

Activity: *Guess the Situation*

- Show pictures or play short video clips with ambiguous situations (e.g., someone looking at a phone with a shocked expression).

- Ask: "What might be happening?"

Example responses:

- "He might have received bad news."
- "She could be watching a scary video."

2. Presentation (10 mins)

Target Language:

- **Low probability:** might, may, could, possibly

- **High probability:** must, definitely, probably
- **Impossible:** can't, couldn't

Examples:

- "He **might** be late."
- "She **must** be tired."
- "That **can't** be true."

Teaching Tip: Use a probability meter (0% to 100%) to visually show where each modal fits.

3. Controlled Practice (15 mins)

Activity: *Modal Match*

- Hand out a worksheet where students match sentences to likelihood levels.

Example:

- "Ali *might* go to the party." → 50%
- "Sara *must* be at work now." → 90%
- "That *can't* be his car." → 0%

Follow-up: Students rewrite sentences using different modals to change the probability.

4. Production (15 mins)

Activity: *Fortune Teller Game*

- In pairs, students act as "fortune tellers." They take turns making predictions about the future using modal verbs and probability expressions.

Example:

- "You *might* travel abroad next year."
- "You will *probably* meet someone new."

5. Listening Practice (Optional Extension)

Activity: Play a short audio clip or video with characters discussing plans or situations.

- Students listen and underline probability words.
- Discuss what each speaker thinks is likely or unlikely.

6. Wrap-Up and Homework (10 mins)

Discussion: Ask students to describe 3 things they think might happen this weekend and rank them by probability.

Homework: Write a paragraph predicting life in 2050 using at least 5 different modals/expressions of possibility and probability.