

Activity Type

Speaking Activity: asking and answering questions from prompts, summarising, controlled and freer practice (group work)

Focus

Modal verbs of possibility

Making predictions

Adverbs of probability

Aim

To ask and answer questions about what changes will take place in the next 30 years.

Preparation

Make one copy of the four worksheets for each group of four.

Level

Intermediate (B1)

Time

40 minutes

Introduction

In this modal verbs of possibility activity, students ask and answer questions about what changes they think will take place in the next 30 years. This activity covers making predictions, adverbs of probability and modal verbs of possibility.

Procedure

Divide the class into four groups (A, B, C and D).

Give each student a corresponding worksheet.

Tell the students that they are going to prepare questions on what possible changes may take place in the next 30 years.

Working in their groups, students write down questions based on the topic and prompts on their worksheet. Students also create three more questions of their own at the end. The first question is shown as an example.

When the students have finished, they make a group of four with the people from the other groups (Student A, B, C and D).

Draw the students' attention to the adverbs of probability at the bottom of the worksheet. Explain that when they respond to a question, they must use one of the adverbs of probability in their answer and give a reason for their opinion.

Students then take it in turns to ask and answer the questions and complete the chart with their classmates' answers.

When the students have finished, they return to their original groups to collate their answers for the whole class.

Write the following adverbs of probability and modal verbs of possibility on the board:

will definitely / will probably / might/may / probably won't / definitely won't

Each student then uses the language on the board to summarize their group's results, e.g. 'Six students think that robots might do the housework in the next 30 years, but five students think that they probably won't'.

Afterwards, students take it in turns to present their group's results to the class and feedback is given.

Student A - Lifestyles

A. Write questions using the prompts below. Also, create three more questions of your own at the end.

In the next 30 years...	Student B	Student C	Student D
... robots - do the housework? <i>Do you think robots will do the housework?</i>			
... cars - use batteries instead of petrol?			
... students - have robot teachers?			
... clothes - look completely different?			
... fewer people - live in big cities?			
... people - work fewer hours?			
... people - still shop in supermarkets?			

B. Now, take it in turns to ask and answer the questions and complete the chart with your classmates' answers. When you respond to a question, use one of the following replies and give a reason for your opinion.

Yes, definitely. Yes, probably. Maybe. No, probably not. No, definitely not.

Student B - Free time

A. Write questions using the prompts below. Also, create three more questions of your own at the end.

In the next 30 years...	Student A	Student C	Student D
... all films - be in 3D? <i>Do you think all films will be in 3D?</i>			
... people - have more free time?			
... people - still read books?			
... computer games - be more popular than TV?			
... people - have longer holidays?			
... people - be able to go on holiday to the moon?			
... everyone - spend less time watching TV?			

B. Now, take it in turns to ask and answer the questions and complete the chart with your classmates' answers. When you respond to a question, use one of the following replies and give a reason for your opinion.

Yes, definitely. Yes, probably. Maybe. No, probably not. No, definitely not.

Student C - World events

A. Write questions using the prompts below. Also, create three more questions of your own at the end.

In the next 30 years...	Student A	Student B	Student D
... tigers - be extinct? <i>Do you think tigers will be extinct?</i>			
... a woman - become president of the USA?			
... we - make contact with aliens?			
... we - have enough food to feed the world?			
... Chinese - be the most spoken language in the world?			
... scientists - be able to clone human beings?			
... humans - travel to Mars?			

B. Now, take it in turns to ask and answer the questions and complete the chart with your classmates' answers. When you respond to a question, use one of the following replies and give a reason for your opinion.

Yes, definitely. Yes, probably. Maybe. No, probably not. No, definitely not.

Student D - Families

A. Write questions using the prompts below. Also, create three more questions of your own at the end.

In the next 30 years...	Student A	Student B	Student C
... fewer people - get married? <i>Do you think fewer people will get married?</i>			
... more people - live to be over 100?			
... parents - be able to choose the colour of their baby's eyes?			
... people - have smaller families?			
... men - be able to have babies?			
... families - have robot nannies and maids?			
... parents - be able to choose their baby's IQ?			

B. Now, take it in turns to ask and answer the questions and complete the chart with your classmates' answers. When you respond to a question, use one of the following replies and give a reason for your opinion.

Yes, definitely. Yes, probably. Maybe. No, probably not. No, definitely not.