

## *Expressing possibility, probability and certainty ( CAE unit 4 )*

### *A/ Possibility*

#### 1. MAY / MIGHT / COULD ( modals )

- +infinitive
- +have +participle

\*Can : only for general possibility ( **Children can be irritating** )

- **Stronger possibility** : you can use **well / easily / highly** ...with modals
- **It may well be more productive** ( es muy probable que ...)
- **You might easily conclude that** ...( bien podrías sacar la conclusión/consecuencia que...)

Ex : **The weather may well improve by the weekend**

#### 2. Other words or phrases :

- It's quite /very possible that.....
- There is (a/some/ a slight/ a good-strong-real ) possibility that.....
- There is ( some / any....) chance that...../ chance of...(-ing )

### *B/ Probability*

#### 1. TO BE ( quite-very-highly ) LIKELY / UNLIKELY ( ser probable/improbable que ...) + that..... / to +infinitive

Ex : **He is unlikely to make the same mistake again.**

Ex : **It's quite likely that they will be on the 8.30 train**

#### 2. ( There is some/ every/ a strong...) **likelihood (noun) = probabilidad**

- **+ of...ing : There is a strong likelihood of (him) getting the first prize**
- **+ that.... : There is little likelihood that we'll get there on time.**

### *C/ Certainty*

#### 1. MUST / CAN'T or couldn't ( modals )

\*Couldn't is less common

- +infinitive : **With so many customers, they must be making a lot of money**
- +have +participle : **he didn't know what we were talking about , so he can't (couldn't ) have read our letter**

2. **TO BE BOUND TO** +infinitive = estar seguro de .....

**Ex : This machine is very badly designed . It's bound to break down before long.**