Adverbs and modal verbs showing possibility

Adverbs and **modal verbs** can show how likely the action of a verb is.

- **Adverbs**: perhaps, maybe, possibly, probably, definitely, certainly, surely
- **Modal verbs**: can, could, may, might, shall, should, will, would

Get started

Copy out these sentences, underlining the modal verbs and adverbs. One has been done for you.

1. "<u>Surely</u> there's something fun we can do this weekend," I said to Dad.
2. Dad looked at the weather forecast and finally made a suggestion: we could go sailing!
3. "I might agree," Mum replied with a smile.
4. I certainly wanted to go – I've loved our sailing holidays ever since I was a little girl.
5. Dad said he could probably borrow his friend's sailing boat.
6. "Shall we invite Grandpa, too?" I asked Dad.
7. He replied that we definitely should.
8. "Grandpa would probably be a great help," he added.

Try these

Copy out the sentence from each pair that seems most likely. One has been done for you.

1. **a)** Perhaps I'll go home.
   b) I'll probably go home.
   Answer: *I'll probably go home.*
2. **a)** We will follow her.
   b) We might follow her.
3. **a)** I could help.
   b) I should help.
4. **a)** Maybe you'll win!
   b) You'll definitely win!
5. **a)** I can come with you into town.
   b) I may come with you into town.
6. **a)** I shall go to the shops with Gran and help her carry her bags.
   b) I would go to the shops with Gran and help her carry her bags.

Now try these

Answer each question with two sentences, one using a modal verb and one using an adverb, to show how likely the actions of your verbs are.

1. Will the weather be nice at the weekend?
2. Are you going on holiday this year?
3. What are you doing tomorrow evening?
4. After school, will you go straight home?
5. Would you like to learn to scuba dive?
6. What do you think you'll do for your birthday?