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The **Podcast** That Will Help You **Speak** English Fluently.

With No ~~Grammar~~ and No ~~Textbooks~~!

Episode #027

How we express
Probability in English?

Hi, everybody! I am Georgiana, your English teacher and founder of SpeakEnglishPodcast.com. My mission is to help you speak English fluently.

- Do you know how to **express probability in English**?

Probably, but just in case, let's practice with some basic expressions.

In the second part, we will practice fluency with a short mini-story of questions and answers.

You can get the transcript of this episode and more at Speakenglishpodcast.com.

Very good. When we talk, we usually say things that are true, or at least we believe them to be true. For example, "it's cold today," but we can also say things that we don't know one hundred percent if they are true.

In today's episode, we will learn some **phrases and words used to express probability**. I'm sure you already know some of these expressions, and seeing them with some examples will help you consolidate them. The key is to hear them in context and over time, repeating them several times. Don't try to learn them all in one day.

Since these expressions are used a lot, it will be easy to remember and use them.

Imagine the following situation: Someone doesn't know where the keys are.

Example:
- Where are the keys? I have to go out, and I can't find them.
- They **might** be in the room.
- They **may** be in the room.
- They **could** be in the room.

See? "They **might/may/could** be in the room" indicates an assumption, a certain probability. You think they are, with some probability, in the room

when you say, "they **might/may/could** be in the room."

Note that if you say: "They **are** in the room," this means that you know for sure that they are there, but if you say "they **might/may/could** be in the room," then it is a probability.

Let's learn now **how to make guesses about the past.**

Here we'll use **may have, might have, or could have.**

Examples:
"I didn't receive your invitation. It **may have** got lost in the mail."

"It's late. Your sister **might have** arrived by now."

"Where is she? She **could have** got lost."

Note that if you say:

"In the summer, it **could** be very hot here."

This means that **sometimes** it can be very hot in the summer. Here we use "**could**" to make **general statements** about the past.
But if we use **may have, might have, or could have**, then it is a probability in the past.

And how do we express **impossibility**?

We use the word **cannot (can't)** to say that something is impossible:

Examples:
"Are you sure about that? That **can't** be correct."
"You **cannot** be serious!"

How do we express **certainty?**
We use **MUST** when **we are sure that something is true.**
Examples:

"You didn't get enough sleep last night. You **must** be tired."
"You skipped lunch today. You **must** be starving."

We also use **SHOULD** to suggest that something is true.
Examples:
"Ask your mom. She **should** know when the cell phone is."
"It's almost lunchtime. Your dad **should** arrive soon."

We use **must have** and **should have** for the past:

Examples:

"Kelley looks happy. She **must have heard** the good news."
"It's nearly ten o'clock. He **should have arrived** by now."

Okay. We have learned several ways of **expressing probability in English**. However, keep in mind that if you want to remember what you learn, it is better not to memorize. My recommendation is that you **listen to the episode several times during the week** to consolidate the information. Through context and with a bit of help, you can learn English effectively.

By the way, if you want to know how to **speak English** using the right techniques, visit SpeakEnglishPodcast.com and subscribe to my mailing list. **I will send you my 5 golden rules to speak English fluently.**

Now let's move on to the next session.

Mini-Story 📖

(Practice your speaking)

What's a mini-story?

A mini-story is very simple. I give you information using phrases, and then I ask you questions.

After each question, there will be some seconds of silence: it's your turn to answer the question!

Just try to give an easy and short answer. Not a complex one.

After your answer, I'll give you the correct answer.

And just like that, I'll tell a story with questions and answers.

Are you ready?

Tom has gone out shopping, or maybe he's gone out for a coffee. We don't know.

Has Tom gone out?
Yes, Tom's out. He's gone out. **Maybe** he's out shopping, or **maybe** he's gone out for a coffee.
Is it possible he's having a coffee?
Yes, it is possible. He **could be** having a coffee in a coffee shop.
What kind of drink could Tom be having? A tea?
No, not tea. Coffee. He **might be** having a coffee.

Tom may be alone or with his girlfriend, who also likes shopping and drink coffee.

Is it possible that Tom is at the North Pole?
No, it can't be possible. He **can't be** at the North Pole.
Could he be alone?
Yes, he **could be**. Or he might be with his girlfriend.
What two things does Tom's girlfriend like to do?
Shopping and drinking coffee.

Maybe Tom has simply stayed at home.

Has Tom stayed at home?
Maybe he has. Maybe he stayed at home, but perhaps he's gone out for a coffee.
Where could Tom possibly be?
He could be at home. He **may be** there.

The truth is, nobody knows where Tom is.

Does anyone know where Tom is?
No, nobody knows. Nobody does.
What don't we know about Tom?
Where he is, no one knows where he is.

Tom must be coming home for lunch soon.

Is Tom likely to come home for lunch?
Yes, it's likely. Very likely. He **must** come home for lunch soon.
What's Tom coming home for?
Lunch. He's coming home to eat.
Where will he be soon?
Home. He'll be home soon.

Perfect! It's the end of this mini-story. And as you can see, through questions and answers, you can practice and improve your speech just like in a **real conversation.**

It is one of the techniques that I use in my **premium courses.**

I recommend you to you take a look at:
SpeakEnglishPodcast.com/courses

Ok! We have reached the end of this episode.

Remember to listen to it several times. It will help you with your English.

See you soon!
Bye! Bye!

Georgiana

founder of
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