

# Everyday Speaking Skills in English

Hedging and Expressing Uncertainty | A2 | Student Worksheet

## Vocabulary

Each phrase is labelled neutral (suitable for most situations) or informal (better for friends and casual conversation).

### Saying you are not sure

|                                                     |                                                                                             |                                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>I'm not sure.</b> [neutral]                      | Used when you do not know something or you are not certain about it.                        | "A: Is the new café good? B: I'm not sure. I haven't been there yet."          |
| <b>I don't really know.</b> [neutral]               | A simple way to say you do not have a clear answer to a question.                           | "A: Which phone is better? B: I don't really know. They both look good to me." |
| <b>I think so, but I'm not 100% sure.</b> [neutral] | Used to give an answer while showing that you might be wrong.                               | "A: Is the shop open today? B: I think so, but I'm not 100% sure."             |
| <b>Maybe.</b> [neutral]                             | A short way to show that something is possible, but not certain.                            | "A: Will you come to the party? B: Maybe. I'm not sure yet."                   |
| <b>Perhaps.</b> [neutral]                           | Similar to 'maybe' — used to show something is possible. Slightly more formal than 'maybe'. | "Perhaps the new app will be better than the old one."                         |
| <b>I'm not 100% sure, but...</b> [neutral]          | Used before giving an answer that might not be completely correct.                          | "I'm not 100% sure, but I think the restaurant closes at ten."                 |

### Saying it depends

|                                                        |                                                                                      |                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>It depends.</b> [neutral]                           | Used when the answer is not always the same — it changes depending on the situation. | "A: Is the city expensive? B: It depends. Some areas are cheap, some are expensive."  |
| <b>It depends on...</b> [neutral]                      | Used to explain what the answer changes because of.                                  | "It depends on the weather. If it's sunny, we will go to the park."                   |
| <b>Sometimes... but not always.</b> [neutral]          | Used to show that something is true in some situations but not in every situation.   | "Sometimes the bus is late, but not always."                                          |
| <b>It's different for everyone.</b> [neutral]          | Used to say that the answer is not the same for every person.                        | "Some people love the app, some people don't. It's different for everyone."           |
| <b>In some ways, yes. In other ways, no.</b> [neutral] | Used to give a balanced answer when something is partly true and partly not true.    | "In some ways, yes, the new café is better. In other ways, no — it's more expensive." |

|                                                                             |                                                                      |                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>That's a good question. I haven't really thought about it.</b> [neutral] | Used when someone asks a question you have not thought about before. | "A: <i>Do you prefer cafés or restaurants?</i><br>B: <i>That's a good question. I haven't really thought about it.</i> " |
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#### Giving a careful answer

|                                                     |                                                                                               |                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>I guess so.</b> [informal]                       | A casual way to agree, while showing a little bit of doubt.                                   | "A: <i>Is this app easy to use?</i> B: <i>I guess so. I haven't used all the features yet.</i> "                  |
| <b>Probably.</b> [neutral]                          | Used when you think something is likely to be true, but you are not completely certain.       | "A: <i>Will the café be busy on Saturday?</i><br>B: <i>Probably. It's always popular at the weekend.</i> "        |
| <b>I'm not really sure, to be honest.</b> [neutral] | A polite, honest way to say you do not know the answer.                                       | "A: <i>Which is the best phone app for learning English?</i> B: <i>I'm not really sure, to be honest.</i> "       |
| <b>It could be, I suppose.</b> [neutral]            | Used to agree with something a little, while still sounding uncertain.                        | "A: <i>Maybe the new café is too expensive.</i> B: <i>It could be, I suppose. I haven't checked the prices.</i> " |
| <b>I haven't decided yet.</b> [neutral]             | Used when you have not made a final decision about something.                                 | "A: <i>Do you like the new app?</i> B: <i>I haven't decided yet. I need more time to try it.</i> "                |
| <b>I'm still not sure about that.</b> [neutral]     | Used to show that you have thought about something but you still do not have a clear opinion. | " <i>I'm still not sure about that. I need to try the café again before I decide.</i> "                           |

## Exercise 1: Listening

Listen to Sara and Tom discussing a new café. Then answer the questions.

### Conversation

**Sara:** Have you been to the new café on Main Street yet?

**Tom:** I went once. I'm not sure what I think about it, to be honest.

**Sara:** Really? Why not?

**Tom:** The coffee was good, I think, but I'm not 100% sure. I only had one cup.

**Sara:** What about the food? Is it good?

**Tom:** It depends. The cakes are really nice, but the sandwiches were just OK.

**Sara:** Is it expensive?

**Tom:** In some ways, yes. In other ways, no. The coffee is expensive, but the cakes are not too bad.

**Sara:** Do you think I should go there?

**Tom:** Probably. I think you would like the cakes. But I'm still not sure about the sandwiches.

**Sara:** OK, maybe I'll try it this weekend.

**Tom:** Good idea. Let me know what you think. I haven't decided if I'll go back yet.

Circle the correct answer.

1. What does Tom say about the coffee?

a) He thinks it was very bad. b) He thinks it was good, but he is not completely sure. c) He did not try the coffee. d) He thinks it was the best coffee he has had.

2. What does Tom say about the food?

a) Everything was excellent. b) Everything was bad. c) The cakes were nice, but the sandwiches were just OK. d) He did not try any food.

3. Is the café expensive, according to Tom?

a) Yes, everything is expensive. b) No, everything is cheap. c) The coffee is expensive, but the cakes are not too bad. d) He does not know the prices.

4. Does Tom think Sara should go to the café?

a) No, he thinks she should not go. b) Yes, probably — he thinks she would like the cakes. c) He has no opinion at all. d) Yes, but only for the sandwiches.

5. What does Tom say about going back to the café?

a) He will definitely go back. b) He will never go back. c) He has not decided yet. d) He is going back tomorrow.

## Exercise 2: Multiple Choice

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Choose the correct phrase to complete each sentence or conversation.

1. A: Is the new phone good? B: \_\_\_\_ I've only had it for one day.

a) I'm not sure. b) It's different for everyone. c) Sometimes. d) I guess.

2. A: Will it rain tomorrow? B: \_\_\_\_ — it's impossible to know because the weather here changes every hour.

a) It depends. b) I haven't decided. c) I guess so. d) That's a good question.

3. A: Do you like the new café? B: \_\_\_\_ I want to try the food a few more times before I decide.

a) I haven't decided yet. b) It's different for everyone. c) Probably. d) Sometimes.

4. The bus is usually on time, but \_\_\_\_ it's a few minutes late.

a) sometimes b) it depends on c) I guess d) perhaps it is

5. A: Should I buy the new app? B: \_\_\_\_ My sister loves it, but my brother thinks it's boring.

a) It's different for everyone. b) I'm not sure. c) That's a good question. d) Probably.

6. A: Do you prefer this café or the old one? B: \_\_\_\_ No one has ever asked me that before.

a) That's a good question. b) I guess so. c) Sometimes. d) It could be.

7. A: Is the sandwich good here? B: \_\_\_\_ I only had one bite, so I can't say for certain.

a) I'm not 100% sure, but... b) It's different for everyone. c) That's a good question. d) I haven't decided yet.

8. A: Will the café be busy this weekend? B: \_\_\_\_ it's always popular on Saturdays, but I can't promise.

a) Probably, b) I haven't decided, c) It's different for everyone, d) That's a good question,

### Exercise 3: Matching

Match each phrase (A) to its meaning (B).

| A - Phrase                                                         | B - Meaning                                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. I'm not sure. ____                                              | 1. Used when you do not know something or are not certain about it                  |
| 2. It depends. ____                                                | 3. Used to show something is true in some situations but not every situation        |
| 3. Sometimes... but not always. ____                               | 4. Used to say the answer is not the same for every person                          |
| 4. It's different for everyone. ____                               | 8. A casual way to agree, while showing a little bit of doubt                       |
| 5. I haven't decided yet. ____                                     | 7. Used when someone asks a question you have not considered before                 |
| 6. Probably. ____                                                  | 6. Used when you think something is likely true, but you are not completely certain |
| 7. That's a good question. I haven't really thought about it. ____ | 5. Used when you have not made a final decision about something                     |
| 8. I guess so. ____                                                | 2. Used when the answer changes depending on the situation                          |

### Exercise 4: Gap Fill

Choose the correct phrase from the box to begin each sentence.

**Phrase Bank:** I'm not sure | It depends on | I haven't decided yet | Sometimes | It's different for everyone | Probably | I'm still not sure about that | I think so, but I'm not 100% sure

- \_\_\_\_ , because I have never tried that restaurant before.
- \_\_\_\_ the weather. If it rains, we will stay at home; if not, we will go out.
- \_\_\_\_ , because I want to visit the café two or three more times before I make up my mind.
- \_\_\_\_ the train is late, but most days it arrives exactly on time.
- \_\_\_\_ — my dad loves spicy food, but my mum can't eat it at all.
- \_\_\_\_ , because the shop has been open every Sunday for the last two years.
- \_\_\_\_ , even after using the new app for a whole week.
- \_\_\_\_ , because I read it on their website yesterday and things can change.

### Exercise 5: Choose the Right Phrase

Each question shows an original sentence that sounds too confident, repetitive, or unsuitable. Choose the best rewrite.

1. Original: "I know everything about that café. It's perfect."

*Context: A friend asks if a new café is good. You have only been there once. This sounds too confident.*

Which rewrite is best for this situation?

a) I'm not 100% sure, but I think it's quite good. b) I know everything. It's perfect. c) Yes, it's definitely the best café in town. d) Probably it's perfect, I think.

2. Original: "I don't know. I don't know. I really don't know."

*Context: A friend asks your opinion about a new app. This is too repetitive.*

Which rewrite is best for this situation?

a) I don't know, I don't know, honestly I don't know. b) I haven't decided yet. I need more time with it. c) I don't know about it, I really don't. d) I don't really know, I don't know at all.

3. Original: "No. The answer is always the same."

*Context: Someone asks if public transport is expensive in your city. The answer actually changes depending on the route and time.*

Which rewrite is best for this situation?

a) No, never. The answer is always the same. b) It depends. Some routes are cheap, some are expensive. c) Yes, always expensive, every single time. d) I guess it's always the same price.

4. Original: "Yes yes yes, definitely, one hundred percent yes."

*Context: A friend asks if you will go to a party this weekend, but you are not sure yet.*

Which rewrite is best for this situation?

a) Yes, definitely, one hundred percent, for sure. b) Maybe. I'm not sure yet. c) Yes, one hundred percent yes, totally. d) Definitely yes, no doubt at all.

5. Original: "Everyone likes the same things. There's no difference."

*Context: Someone asks if a new restaurant is good for everyone. People's tastes are actually very different.*

Which rewrite is best for this situation?

a) Yes, everyone likes the same food, no difference at all. b) Probably everyone likes the same thing, I think. c) It's different for everyone. Some people will love it, some won't. d) Everyone is the same, honestly.

6. Original: "I have thought about this question my whole life and I have a complete answer."

*Context: A friend asks a simple question you have never really thought about before, like 'Do you prefer tea or coffee?'*

Which rewrite is best for this situation?

a) I have thought about this for years and I have the perfect answer. b) That's a good question. I haven't really thought about it. c) I have a complete answer, definitely, for sure. d) I know exactly what I think, one hundred percent.

7. Original: "I'm 100% certain. The bus always comes at exactly 9am every single day without exception."

*Context: A friend asks if the bus is reliable. Bus times can actually vary by a few minutes.*

Which rewrite is best for this situation?

a) It's always exactly 9am, no exceptions, ever. b) I think so, but I'm not 100% sure. It's usually around 9am. c) Yes, definitely always exactly on time. d) I'm 100% certain, no question about it.

8. Original: "Obviously yes, everyone knows that for a fact."

*Context: Someone asks if a new restaurant is good value for money. You haven't actually tried it yet.*

Which rewrite is best for this situation?

a) Obviously, yes, that's just a fact. b) Everyone knows it's true, for sure. c) I'm not really sure, to be honest. I haven't tried it yet. d) Definitely, one hundred percent, no doubt.

## Exercise 6: Error Identification

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Each sentence contains one error, or no error at all. Underline the error and write a correction, or write "No error".

1. I'm not sure what time the café close today.

Correction / No error: \_\_\_\_\_

2. It depends on the weather. If it rains, we will stay home.

Correction / No error: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Sometimes the bus are late, but not always.

Correction / No error: \_\_\_\_\_

4. I haven't decided yet. I need more time to think about it.

Correction / No error: \_\_\_\_\_

5. It's different for everyone because people has different tastes.

Correction / No error: \_\_\_\_\_

6. I think so, but I'm not 100% sure about it.

Correction / No error: \_\_\_\_\_

7. That café probably open at nine o'clock every morning.

Correction / No error: \_\_\_\_\_

8. I guess so, but I haven't tried all the features yet.

Correction / No error: \_\_\_\_\_

## Exercise 7: Complete the Dialogue

Choose the correct phrase from the box to complete each turn in the conversation between Lia and Omar.

**Phrase Bank:** I'm not sure | It depends on | I haven't decided yet | Sometimes | It's different for everyone | That's a good question | Probably | I think so, but I'm not 100% sure

Lia: Have you tried that new app for learning vocabulary?

1. Omar: Yes, I downloaded it last night. \_\_\_\_\_. I haven't used it enough to give a proper opinion.

2. Lia: Fair enough. \_\_\_\_\_ how much time you spend on it each day, I think.

Omar: True. Do you think it's better than the old app we used?

3. Lia: \_\_\_\_\_. I want to compare them properly first.

Omar: OK. Does it work every day without problems?

4. Lia: \_\_\_\_\_ it crashes, but most days it works fine.

Omar: What about the price? Is it good value for everyone?

5. Lia: \_\_\_\_\_. Some people use it every day and think it's great value. Others barely open it.

Omar: Do you think the new design is better than the old one?

6. Lia: \_\_\_\_\_. I never really compared the two designs before.

Omar: Will you keep using it next month?

7. Lia: \_\_\_\_\_. I've enjoyed it so far, but I can't promise.

Omar: And would you recommend it to a friend?

8. Lia: \_\_\_\_\_. I'd want them to try it themselves first.

## TEACHER ANSWER KEY

Do Not Distribute to Students

### Everyday Speaking Skills — Hedging and Expressing Uncertainty | A2

#### Exercise 1: Listening

1. What does Tom say about the coffee?

**Answer: He thinks it was good, but he is not completely sure.**

2. What does Tom say about the food?

**Answer: The cakes were nice, but the sandwiches were just OK.**

3. Is the café expensive, according to Tom?

**Answer: The coffee is expensive, but the cakes are not too bad.**

4. Does Tom think Sara should go to the café?

**Answer: Yes, probably — he thinks she would like the cakes.**

5. What does Tom say about going back to the café?

**Answer: He has not decided yet.**

#### Exercise 2: Multiple Choice

1. A: Is the new phone good? B: \_\_\_\_ I've only had it for one day.

**Answer: I'm not sure.**

2. A: Will it rain tomorrow? B: \_\_\_\_ — it's impossible to know because the weather here changes every hour.

**Answer: It depends.**

3. A: Do you like the new café? B: \_\_\_\_ I want to try the food a few more times before I decide.

**Answer: I haven't decided yet.**

4. The bus is usually on time, but \_\_\_\_ it's a few minutes late.

**Answer: sometimes**

5. A: Should I buy the new app? B: \_\_\_\_ My sister loves it, but my brother thinks it's boring.

**Answer: It's different for everyone.**

6. A: Do you prefer this café or the old one? B: \_\_\_\_ No one has ever asked me that before.

**Answer: That's a good question.**

7. A: Is the sandwich good here? B: \_\_\_\_ I only had one bite, so I can't say for certain.

**Answer: I'm not 100% sure, but...**

8. A: Will the café be busy this weekend? B: \_\_\_\_ it's always popular on Saturdays, but I can't promise.

**Answer: Probably,**

#### Exercise 3: Matching

1. I'm not sure. -> 1

**Used when you do not know something or are not certain about it**

2. It depends. -> 2

**Used when the answer changes depending on the situation**

3. Sometimes... but not always. -> 3

**Used to show something is true in some situations but not every situation**

4. It's different for everyone. -> 4

**Used to say the answer is not the same for every person**

5. I haven't decided yet. -> 5

**Used when you have not made a final decision about something**

6. Probably. -> 6

**Used when you think something is likely true, but you are not completely certain**

7. That's a good question. I haven't really thought about it. -> 7

**Used when someone asks a question you have not considered before**

8. I guess so. -> 8

**A casual way to agree, while showing a little bit of doubt**

#### **Exercise 4: Gap Fill**

1. \_\_\_\_, because I have never tried that restaurant before.

**Answer: I'm not sure**

2. \_\_\_\_ the weather. If it rains, we will stay at home; if not, we will go out.

**Answer: It depends on**

3. \_\_\_\_, because I want to visit the café two or three more times before I make up my mind.

**Answer: I haven't decided yet**

4. \_\_\_\_ the train is late, but most days it arrives exactly on time.

**Answer: Sometimes**

5. \_\_\_\_ — my dad loves spicy food, but my mum can't eat it at all.

**Answer: It's different for everyone**

6. \_\_\_\_, because the shop has been open every Sunday for the last two years.

**Answer: Probably**

7. \_\_\_\_, even after using the new app for a whole week.

**Answer: I'm still not sure about that**

8. \_\_\_\_, because I read it on their website yesterday and things can change.

**Answer: I think so, but I'm not 100% sure**

#### **Exercise 5: Choose the Right Phrase**

1. Original: "I know everything about that café. It's perfect."

**Answer: I'm not 100% sure, but I think it's quite good.**

Why: This shows a careful, honest opinion — appropriate when you have not visited many times.

2. Original: "I don't know. I don't know. I really don't know."

**Answer: I haven't decided yet. I need more time with it.**

Why: This expresses the same uncertainty clearly, without repeating the same words.

3. Original: "No. The answer is always the same."

**Answer: It depends. Some routes are cheap, some are expensive.**

Why: This correctly shows that the answer is not the same in every situation.

4. Original: "Yes yes yes, definitely, one hundred percent yes."

**Answer: Maybe. I'm not sure yet.**

Why: This honestly reflects your real uncertainty instead of pretending to be certain.

5. Original: "Everyone likes the same things. There's no difference."

**Answer: It's different for everyone. Some people will love it, some won't.**

Why: This correctly acknowledges that different people have different opinions.

6. Original: "I have thought about this question my whole life and I have a complete answer."

**Answer: That's a good question. I haven't really thought about it.**

Why: This is an honest, natural response to a question you have not considered before.

7. Original: "I'm 100% certain. The bus always comes at exactly 9am every single day without exception."

**Answer: I think so, but I'm not 100% sure. It's usually around 9am.**

Why: This gives a realistic, honest answer about a bus schedule that can vary slightly.

8. Original: "Obviously yes, everyone knows that for a fact."

**Answer: I'm not really sure, to be honest. I haven't tried it yet.**

Why: This honestly admits you have no direct experience, instead of pretending to know something you don't.

### Exercise 6: Error Identification

1. I'm not sure what time the café close today.

**Error: "close" -> "closes" | Subject-verb agreement error — the subject is the café (singular, he/she/it form), so the verb should be closes, not close.**

2. It depends on the weather. If it rains, we will stay home.

**Answer: No error.**

3. Sometimes the bus are late, but not always.

**Error: "are" -> "is" | Subject-verb agreement error — the subject is the bus (singular), so the verb should be is, not are.**

4. I haven't decided yet. I need more time to think about it.

**Answer: No error.**

5. It's different for everyone because people has different tastes.

**Error: "has" -> "have" | Subject-verb agreement error — the subject is people (plural), so the verb should be have, not has.**

6. I think so, but I'm not 100% sure about it.

**Answer: No error.**

7. That café probably open at nine o'clock every morning.

**Error: "open" -> "opens" | Subject-verb agreement error — the subject is that café (singular), so the verb should be opens, not open.**

8. I guess so, but I haven't tried all the features yet.

**Answer: No error.**

### Exercise 7: Complete the Dialogue

**Gap 1: I'm not sure**

**Gap 2: It depends on**

**Gap 3: I haven't decided yet**

**Gap 4: Sometimes**

**Gap 5: It's different for everyone**

**Gap 6: That's a good question**

**Gap 7: Probably**

**Gap 8: I think so, but I'm not 100% sure**