

# Positive Statements for Degrees of Certainty / Uncertainty

Less Sure / Less Certain	More Sure / More Certain
[you think something is possible but you're not sure]	[you are pretty convinced something is true]
<b><i>could</i></b> <b><i>may</i></b> <b><i>might</i></b>	<b><i>must</i></b>

- **Examples:**

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- The 1-Train *might* not be working today, that *could* be why there are so few students in class. [It's possible that the 1-Train is not working. It's possible that that is the reason there are so few students in class].

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- Did you forget to plug in the cable to that computer? That *may* be the problem. [It's possible that the unplugged cable is the problem]

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- You haven't eaten all day! You *must* be hungry. [I am pretty convinced you are hungry].

# Negative Statements for Degrees of Certainty / Uncertainty

Less Sure / Less Certain	More Sure / More Certain
[you think something is possible but you're not sure]	[you are pretty convinced something is true]
<b><i>may not</i></b> <b><i>might not</i></b>	<b><i>can't</i></b> <b><i>couldn't</i></b> <b><i>must not</i></b>

- **Examples:**

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- Students *may not* have registered for classes yet, it's still pretty early. They *might not* be able to, they don't have the registration information yet. [It's possible that students have not registered for classes yet. It's possible that they can't].

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- You *can't* still be hungry, you ate twelve sandwiches already! [I am pretty convinced that you are not hungry].

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- The visitor couldn't have been my mom, she's in Florida right now [I am pretty sure that the visitor was not my mother].

\*\*\*\*\* Note: Can't is for present & future; Couldn't is for past tense \*\*\*\*\*

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- The 1-Train is still working, that must not be the reason for all the absences today. [I am convinced that the 1-Train being broken is not the reason for all the absences in class today because it is not broken].