# How Sure?

Sort words by how certain they sound.

**L.3.5.c** "Distinguish shades of meaning among related words that describe degrees of certainty."

NAME _____ DATE _____

| SURE | NOT SURE |
| --- | --- |
| These words show that someone feels certain something is true or will happen.<br>The pond is **absolutely** frozen. | These words show that something could be true or happen, but the person does not know for certain.<br>A fox **may** visit the woods. |

## 1 SORT

8 items

For each sentence, circle SURE or MAYBE, then choose two numbered items and explain how you knew where they belong.

1. The bus will **definitely** come. SURE MAYBE
2. We will **certainly** see stars tonight. SURE MAYBE
3. **Perhaps** the cat is asleep. SURE MAYBE
4. The parcel will arrive **without a doubt**. SURE MAYBE
5. The kite **might** fly. SURE MAYBE
6. **Maybe** the team will win. SURE MAYBE
7. I know **for sure** that the bell rang. SURE MAYBE
8. The plant will grow, **no doubt**. SURE MAYBE

## 2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

**ITEM #** _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

**ITEM #** _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

## 3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new sentence with a SURE word and one new sentence with a MAYBE word; underline the word or words that show how sure you are.

**SURE** _____

**MAYBE** _____

**CHALLENGE**

Write two sentences about the same event, one that sounds SURE and one that sounds MAYBE; underline the words that change how certain the event sounds.

# How Sure?



## PART 1 · SORT

| # | ITEM | CATEGORY | WHY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | The bus will **definitely** come. | **SURE** | Definitely expresses certainty. |
| 2 | We will **certainly** see stars tonight. | **SURE** | Certainly expresses certainty. |
| 3 | **Perhaps** the cat is asleep. | **MAYBE** | Perhaps expresses uncertainty. |
| 4 | The parcel will arrive **without a doubt**. | **SURE** | Without a doubt expresses certainty. |
| 5 | The kite **might** fly. | **MAYBE** | Might expresses uncertainty. |
| 6 | **Maybe** the team will win. | **MAYBE** | Maybe expresses uncertainty. |
| 7 | I know **for sure** that the bell rang. | **SURE** | For sure expresses certainty. |
| 8 | The plant will grow, **no doubt**. | **SURE** | No doubt expresses certainty. |

## PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

## PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **SURE**: I am <u>certain</u> my socks are dry.
- **MAYBE**: The baker will <u>possibly</u> make muffins.

**Challenge:** The play will <u>certainly</u> start at noon. The play <u>could</u> start at noon.

For Part 2, accept explanations that name the bold word or phrase and tell whether it shows certainty or uncertainty. For Part 3, accept other words that clearly show the stated degree of certainty.