

Position of adverbs of certainty and place

We use adverbs of certainty to say how sure we are of something. Examples are: certainly, definitely, clearly, obviously and probably.

Adverbs of certainty usually go in mid-position.

Study the following patterns.

Auxiliary verb + adverb

She will probably come.

The train has obviously been delayed.

Am / are / is / was / were + adverb

She is certainly right.

There is clearly something wrong.

Adverb + other verb

He probably thinks that he is the smartest. (NOT He thinks probably that ...)

I certainly feel better today.

Grammar notes

Maybe and perhaps usually come at the beginning of a clause.

Maybe you are right.

Perhaps he will come.

Adverbs of place

Adverbs of place say where something happens. Examples are: upstairs, around, here, in London, out of the window

Adverbs of place usually go at the end of a clause.

The children are playing in the garden.

Position of adverbs of certainty and place

Don't throw things out of the window.

The old man sat in the corner.

There was a very tall tree at the end of the garden.

Initial position is also possible. This usually happens in a literary style.

At the end of the garden there was a very tall tree.