



Doubt and certainty

Sarah: I wonder if Charles will pass his examination next week

W: Of course he will! I should think it's a forgone conclusion.

Sarah: but how can you be sure? These things are never certain, are they?

W: well, look how hard he's worked for it. He's hardly likely to fail, is he?

Sarah: I suppose you're right. But we mustn't forget that he may just possibly have some bad luck with the questions. What about the new job he's applied for?

W: Ah, now there, it's much less certain. He might get it I suppose, but we can't be sure. On the whole I'm inclined to think it improbable, after all, I expect quite a few of the other candidates will be a good deal more experienced than he is.

Sarah: so you don't really fancy his chances.

W: I'm not saying that. I just don't want to stick my neck out, that's all. It's very difficult to make any predictions.

GLOSSARY:

Doubt and certainty	A forgone
To wonder	Hard
To pass an examination	Hardly likely
To be sure	Bad luck
To work	A new job
To fail	On the whole
To forget	Improbable
To apply	Quite a few
To be inclined	A candidate
To expect	A good deal
To fancy	The chances
To stick one's neck out	Predictions

To wonder whether	I'm convinced that
To be in the dark as to	I'm pretty sure that
I doubt it	I'm dead sure
It's far from obvious	You can bank on it
I have my doubts	



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