

FUNCTIONAL ENGLISH

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Functional English

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Drawing Conclusions/Deductions(present and future time)

Reading Comprehension

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Notions/Functions/Topics

Certainty and uncertainty

General ways of expressing certainty and uncertainty

Certainty, uncertainty and ignorance

Uncertainty

Doubt about someone's certainty

Possibility and impossibility (present and future)

General ways of expressing possibilities and impossibilities

Certainty and possibility

Guessing people's characters

Describing films, etc.

Reacting to and commenting on films, etc.

Discourse/Paragraph Writing

Drawing conclusions/Certainty and uncertainty

Topic sentence, unity in paragraph

Drawing Conclusions/Deductions

(present and future time)

13.1.0 Skills and Abilities

13.1.1 Certainty and uncertainty

I. General ways of expressing certainty and uncertainty

Asking

Can he/she/it...?

Can he/she/it be + -ing...?

Are you { (quite) certain
(absolutely) sure (that)...(not)...
positive

Answering

Certainty

He must...(be unhappy)

It must...

He/It must be + -ing...

He/It can't...

He/It can't be + -ing...

I'm { quite certain
absolutely sure (that) ... (not) ...
positive

Possibly/Probably/Likely, he ... (not) ...

It's obvious that ... (not) ...

Uncertainty/Hearsay

I'm { not certain
not sure (that) ...
positive

People say (that) ...

It { is said
(that) ...
seems

It { appears that ...
looks as if

Ignorance

I'm afraid (that) I don't know.

I must admit (that) I don't know.

I really have no idea ...

I haven't any idea at all.

I. Certainty, uncertainty and ignorance

Five students are talking about the emotions and feelings of these people in the pictures below. Try to express genuine certainty, uncertainty or ignorance about their emotions and feelings, adapting your description to the structures used by these five students.

(in groups of 5)

S1: Mr X seems annoyed. He's holding his head in his hands.

S2: Yes, he must be annoyed. He's frowning.

S3: Well, if you ask me, he can't be annoyed. He looks annoyed, in fact/actually he isn't. He's

sort of worried.

S4: I can't say for certain, but from the way he looks, he might be bored.

S5: I must admit I really have no idea.

Match these words or expressions with the pictures:
hurt, confused, satisfied, annoyed, embarrassed, frightened, surprised, pleased, worried, amused, bored, impressed, sad, depressed, cheerful, fed up, interested, angry, horrified, envious, etc. as white as a sheet, goes red, smiling from ear to ear, red in the face, biting his fingers, as sober as a judge, frowning, looking blue, drumming his fingers on the table, goes black in the face, in a black mood, (She's) all smiles, ... hair stands up on end, green with envy, as proud as a peacock, ...







I. Uncertainty

Misleading appearance

How would you judge the age of these? Choose the correct description. Adapt your description to these structures.

(in pairs)

A: It looks as if
 It appears } that
 It seems } the car is about 40 years old.

B: What led you to the conclusion?

It { looks
 seems to be old-fashioned, in fact/actually,
 appears
 it is about 15 years old.

a. radio ... forty years	so old-fashioned
b. man ... ninety years	so worn
c. bike ... thirty years	so tiny
d. baby ... one month	so wrinkled
e. tyres ... four years	so ancient
f. castle ... seven hundred years	so out-of-date

IV. Doubt about someone's certainty

The smell, taste, colour, shape, sound, weight, look, feel, etc. of things are important clues to their identity. Try to identify these things.

(in pairs)

Example:

Blake: Can it be wood? How do you know it is wood rather than iron?

Linda: It can't be iron/It must be wood. Anyone can tell from the feel/It's obvious from the feel.

- a. How can you be sure it's alcohol rather than petrol?
- b. How can you tell it's cashmere rather than lambwool?
- c. How can you be certain it's an oboe rather than a flute?
- d. How do you know it's a dolphin rather than a shark?
- e. How can you tell it's plastic rather than leather?
- f. How can you be so positive that it's a wig rather than her own hair?
- g. How can you tell with your eyes shut it's silver rather than gold?

V. Guessing what climate and weather are like

What do you suppose these signs suggest?

Example:

A: The days are getting longer.