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PodCaz audio # 88: Functions of English (Leo Jones)
Talking about the future: stating intentions, discussing probability, considering “What if ...?”

Richard : Hallo Bob!

Bob: Hallo Richard!

Richard : How are you?

Bob: Alright. Are you?

Richard : Yes, fine thanks.

Bob: Good.

Richard : Bit fed up with this weather.

Bob: Oh yes, yes.

Richard : You ... er ... taking a holiday this year?

Bob: Er... yes, I'm hoping to take three weeks in May and then have another three weeks later on in the year – September, possibly.

Richard : Good, good, good. Do you think you'll be going away or staying at home?

Bob: Oh I don't think I'll go away in May. Doubt if I'll have enough money saved up by then.

Richard : What about in September?

Bob: Oh yes, I'm definitely going abroad then – if I can afford it. I haven't quite made up my mind where though. Greece, maybe. Or Spain – Italy. Bound to be hot and sunny out there.

Richard : Yes. Suppose you ... er ... couldn't afford it?

Bob: Oh ... er ... I expect I'd stay at home and just have days out at the coast or in the country, you know.

Richard : Just supposing you had all the money in the world, where would you go?

Bob: Oh ... I ... yes, I think I'd like to go to Canada. Yes, I've always wanted to go there.

Richard : Marvellous!

Bob: Well... how about you? Do you think you'll go abroad this year?

Richard : Yes. Booked up already. We're going to ... um ... going to Norway in August ... going walking.

Bob: Really? Oh, what's the weather like out there at that time of year?

Richard : Oh, you never know with Norway. I wouldn't be surprised if it rained!

1. Stating intentions:

"Are you going to ...?"

Yes, definitely: Nothing's going to stop me ... -ing ...
I'm certainly going to ...
I'm going to ... , that's for sure.

Yes, probably: I think I'll ...
I may well ...
I'm hoping to ...

Perhaps: I'm thinking of ... -ing ...
I thought I might ...
I haven't made up my mind whether to ...

No, probably not: I don't think I'll ...
I don't really feel like ... -ing ...
I'm not really planning to ...

No, definitely not: I'm certainly not going to ...
You won't catch me ... -ing ...
I'm not going to ... if I can help it

2. Discussing probability

"Do you think it will ...?"

Yes, definitely: Of course it'll ...
It's sure to ...
It's bound to ...

Yes, probably: I expect it'll ...
I wouldn't be surprised if it ...-ed
I bet it'll ...

Perhaps: There's a chance it'll ...
It might possibly ...
I suppose it might ...

No, probably not: I doubt if it'll ...
I don't think it'll ...
There's not much chance of it ... -ing

No, definitely not: Of course it won't ...
There's no chance of it ...-ing
I'm absolutely sure it won't ...

3. Considering “What if ...?”

Just imagine if you became a millionaire ...

Suppose you came into a lot of money ...

Just supposing you won the football pools ...

Questions: ... what would you do ?
... how would you feel ?
... what would it be like?

Answers: Oh, I suppose I'd
Oh, I might ...
Oh, I think I'd ...
Oh, I expect I'd ...

Voir aussi :

PodCaz audio # 80: Future plans

PodCaz audio # 89 : « All-Seeing Ted »'s predictions

