Grammar Reference

1a. Grammar Reference: Future probability

To talk about future probability, we can use the modal verbs: *will*, *could*, *may* and *might*. *Will* usually communicates that something is very certain to happen.
<u>Examples:</u>
> I'*ll* be there by six.
> We *will* graduate the first week of May and begin our internship in the second.

Could, *may*, and *might*, communicate that something is possible but not certain.
<u>Examples:</u>
> She *could* win if her fans voted.
> We *may* be a little late to the party.
> I *might* go home early if I don't feel better soon.

There are also many phrases that can be used to talk about future probability. For things that are very certain:
<u>Examples:</u>
She will definitely…
> *She will definitely* win the elections based on her popularity.

It will presumably…
> *It will presumably* rain all weekend.

For things that are very likely:
<u>Examples:</u>
The chances are that…
> *The chances are that* they break up after high school.

There is a strong possibility…
> *There is a strong possibility* that my family will move to Canada.

It may/might well…
> *I may well* be the top student in our class.

For things that are very unlikely:
<u>Examples:</u>
There's a slight/remote possibility that…
> Due to the storm, *there's a slight possibility that* the flight won't be canceled.

I doubt whether…

>*I doubt whether* they'll arrive on time. They're
>always late.

It probably won't…

>*It probably won't* be too scary since the main
>actor is known for being funny.

The chances are slim that…

>*The chances are slim that* you will pass the class
>having missed all the quizzes.

For things that are impossible:

Examples:

It is inconceivable that

>*It is inconceivable that* I will be married when I
>turn thirty in a few months.

1b. Grammar Reference: Future forms review

There are many different grammatical forms to talk about
the future.

Use the **simple present** to talk about things that are
scheduled and fixed.

Examples:

>She **presents** at 2:00.
>
>The plane **leaves** at 8:45.

Use will to talk about something immediately decided in the
moment, or for predictions about the future using evidence.

Examples:

>**I'll** join tonight.
>
>I think most of the team **will** be there.
>
>You **will** make a great mother.

Use **be going to** talk about a future plan or intention, or for
making predictions using your senses.

Examples:

>We **are going to** have friends over for dinner this
>weekend.
>
>It is so dark and windy I think **it's going to** rain.

Use the **future progressive** to talk about a future arrangement, or for something that will be in progress at a point in the future.

Examples:

>**I am meeting** Sarah for coffee at 4:00.
>**She is studying** for her final exams next week.

Use the **future perfect** to talk about something that will be finished before another time in the future.

Examples:

>By 6:00 I **will have finished** making dinner.
>By June she **will have completed** her exams.

1c. Grammar Reference: Subject-verb inversion (adverbial phrases)

Inversion is used to emphasize the adverbial phrase in a sentence. Inversion is usually used in more formal writing.

>Form = negative + adverbial phrase + auxiliary verb + subj.

Examples:

>No sooner did she arrive than we left.
>Not only did the little boy know how to set up the chessboard, but he also knew how to play.

Do not use an auxiliary verb if the main verb is be or a modal verb.

Examples:

>Not only is she beautiful, but she is at the top of her class.

We can use inversion after the word only to add emphasis.

Examples:

>Only after I talked to her did I remember meeting her.