

**certain****1. ['sɜ:tɪn] n**

нечто верное, несомненное; факт

for certain - наверняка; несомненно

I don't know for certain - я не уверен; я точно не знаю

I hear for certain that ... - мне рассказали как о факте, что ...

**2. ['sɜ:tɪn] a**

**1. определённый, неизменный, постоянный**

on certain days - в определённые/назначенные, установленные/ дни

**2. некоторый, определённый, известный**

under certain conditions - при известных/некоторых, определённых/ условиях

certain relief - некоторое/известное/ облегчение

for certain reasons - по некоторым соображениям

to a certain degree - в известной степени

of a certain age - не первой молодости

**3. predic** уверенный; убеждённый

to feel certain of [that] ... - быть уверенным в [что] ...

I am not certain - я не уверен

to make certain - удостовериться, убедиться

make certain of your facts before you argue - проверьте факты, прежде чем спорить

be certain you catch your train on time - смотрите не опоздайте на поезд

**4. один, некий**

a certain Mr. Brown - некий г-н Браун; некто Браун

a certain person - некто, один человек

**5. 1) верный, надёжный; несомненный**

certain information - надёжная информация

to face certain death - идти на верную смерть

to regard smth. as certain - быть совершенно уверенным в чём-л.

there is no certain cure for this disease - против этой болезни нет надёжного лекарства

the fact is certain - факт не вызывает сомнений

the evidence is certain - показания достоверны

**2) бесспорный; неизбежный**

it is certain to happen - это неизбежно произойдёт

he is certain to come - он обязательно придёт

they are certain to know everything - они наверняка всё знают

he is certain of returning - он уверен, что вернётся

he is certain to return - он обязательно вернётся, мы уверены, что он вернётся

**6. редк.** уверенный; верный, точный; безошибочный

certain motion - правильный ход (часов)

his aim was certain - он стрелял без промаха

his ear for music was certain - у него был абсолютный музыкальный слух

**7. арх. эвф.** известного рода

a woman of certain description - женщина /дама/ известного рода, дама полусвета

in a certain position - в интересном положении, беременная

certain disease - болезнь известного рода, венерическая болезнь

**certain**

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

**cer-tain** adjective, pronoun *BrE* ['sɜ:rtɪn] <sup>m</sup> *NAmE* ['sɜ:rtɪn] <sup>m</sup>

**adjective**

**1.** that you can rely on to happen or to be true

• The climbers face certain death if the rescue today is unsuccessful.

• ~ **(that)**... It is certain that they will agree.

• ~ **to do sth** She looks certain to win an Oscar.

• They are certain to agree.

• ~ **of sth/of doing sth** If you want to be certain of getting a ticket, book now.

**2.** firmly believing sth; having no doubts

• ~ **(that)**... She wasn't certain (that) he had seen her.

• ~ **of/about sth** Are you absolutely certain about this?

• ~ **who/where, etc...** I'm not certain who was there.

• **To my certain knowledge** he was somewhere else at the time (= I am sure about it) .

**3.** used to mention a particular thing, person or group without giving any more details about it or them

• For certain personal reasons I shall not be able to attend.

• Certain people might disagree with this.

• They refused to release their hostages unless certain conditions were met.

**4.** (formal) used with a person's name to show that the speaker does not know the person

• It was a certain Dr Davis who performed the operation.

**5.** slight; noticeable, but difficult to describe

• That's true, **to a certain extent** .

• I felt there was a certain coldness in her manner.

## Word Origin:

Middle English: from Old French, based on Latin **certus** 'settled, sure'.

## Thesaurus:

**certain** *adj.*

1.

• She looks certain to win an Oscar.

**bound** • **sure** • **guaranteed** • **conclusive** • **undeniable** • **indisputable** • **unquestionable** • *formal* **destined** • *written* **assured** • *especially spoken* **definite** •

**Opp:** **uncertain**

certain/sure/assured **of** sth

certain/bound/sure/guaranteed/destined **to do sth**

certain/conclusive/undeniable/indisputable/unquestionable/definite **that...**

2.

• Are you certain about this?

**sure** • **confident** • **convinced** • **clear** • **satisfied** • *especially spoken* **positive** •

**Opp:** **uncertain**

certain/sure/confident/convinced/clear/positive **about** sth

certain/sure/confident/convinced/satisfied **of** sth

certain/sure/confident/convinced/clear/satisfied/positive **that...**

certain/sure/clear/satisfied **who/what/how...**

**Certain or sure?** **Certain** is slightly more formal and less frequent than **sure**. Both words are often used in negative statements and questions.

3.

• Certain people might disagree.

**particular** • **specific** •

a certain/particular/specific **event/incident/occasion/date**

certain/particular/specific **needs/requirements**

a certain/particular/specific **type/kind of** sth

## Synonyms:

**certain**

**bound** • **sure** • **definite** • **guaranteed**

These are all words describing sth that will definitely happen or is definitely true.

**certain** • that you can rely on to happen or be true: ▫ It's certain that they will agree. ◇ ▫ They are certain to agree.

**bound** • [not before noun] certain to happen, or to do or be sth. **Bound** is only used in the phrase **bound to do/be, etc.**: ▫ There are bound to be changes when the new system is introduced. ◇ ▫ You've done so much work— you're bound to pass the exam.

**sure** • certain to happen or be true; that can be trusted on relied on: ▫ She's sure to be picked for the team. ◇ ▫ It's sure to rain.

**definite** • (*rather informal*) certain to happen; that is not going to change: ▫ Is it definite that he's leaving?

**guaranteed** • certain to have a particular result: ▫ That kind of behaviour is guaranteed to make him angry.

certain/sure **of** sth

certain/bound/sure/guaranteed **to do sth**

certain/definite **that...**

I **couldn't say for** certain/sure/definite.

## Synonyms:

**sure**

**confident** • **convinced** • **certain** • **positive** • **clear**

These words all describe sb who knows without doubt that sth is true or will happen.

**sure** • [not before noun] without any doubt that you are right, that sth is true, that you will get sth or that sth will happen: ▫ 'Is that John over there?' 'I'm not sure.' ◇ ▫ Are you sure about that? ◇ ▫ England must win this game to be sure of qualifying.

**Sure** is often used in negative statements and questions, because there is some doubt or anxiety over the matter. If there is no doubt, people often say **quite sure**: ▫ I'm quite sure (that) I left my bag here (= I have no doubt about it) ▫

**confident** • completely sure that sth will happen in the way that you want or expect: ▫ I'm quite confident that you'll get the job. ◇ ▫ The team feels confident of winning.

**Confident** is a stronger and more definite word than **sure** and is more often used in positive statements, when you feel no anxiety.

**convinced** • [not before noun] completely sure that sth is true or right, especially because the evidence seems to prove it or sb else has persuaded you to believe it: ▫ I'm convinced that she's innocent.

**certain** • [not usually before noun] sure that you are right or that sth is true: ▫ Are you absolutely certain about this?

**sure or certain?**

Like **sure**, **certain** is often used in negative statements and questions. It is slightly more formal than **sure**; **sure** is more frequent, especially in spoken English.

**positive** • [not before noun] (*rather informal*) completely sure that sth is true: ▫ She was positive that he'd been there. ◇ ▫ 'Are you sure?' 'Positive.'

**clear** • (often used in negative statements and questions) having no doubt or confusion about sth: ▫ My memory isn't really clear on that point.

sure/confident/convinced/certain/positive/clear **about** sth

sure/confident/convinced/certain **of** sth

sure/confident/convinced/certain/positive/clear **that...**

sure/certain/clear **who/what/how**, etc.

to **feel** sure/confident/convinced/certain/positive

**quite/absolutely/completely /fairly/pretty** sure/confident/convinced/certain/positive/clear

**not altogether** sure/confident/convinced/certain/clear

### Example Bank:

- Digby looked certain to be the next president.
- I don't know for certain how many people are coming.
- I grew more and more certain that she was lying to me.
- I think she's a teacher, but I couldn't say for certain.
- It's by no means certain that she'll get the job.
- Make certain that you lock the door if you go out.
- He wasn't certain who he'd given the papers to.
- I couldn't say for certain whether she'll be there.
- If you want to be certain of getting into the concert, buy your ticket now.
- It's certain that they will agree.
- She wasn't certain (that) he'd seen her.
- The climbers face certain death if the rescue attempt is unsuccessful.
- They are certain to agree.
- To my certain knowledge he was somewhere else at the time.
- You have to be quite certain of the facts before making a decision.

**Idioms:** ↑for certain ▪ ↑make certain ▪ ↑make certain of of doing something ▪ ↑of a certain age

**pronoun certain of...** (formal) used for talking about some members of a group of people or things without giving their names

- Certain of those present were unwilling to discuss the matter further.

### Word Origin:

[**certain**] Middle English: from Old French, based on Latin *certus* 'settled, sure'.

## certain

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

I. **cer**tain<sup>1</sup> **S1 W1** /'sɜːtɪn/ *BrE* *AmE* *adjective*

[**Word Family:** noun: ↑certainty ≠ ↑uncertainty; **adverb:** ↑certainly ≠ ↑uncertainly; **adjective:** ↑certain ≠ ↑uncertain]

[**Date:** 1200-1300; **Language:** Old French; **Origin:** Vulgar Latin *certanus*, from Latin *certus* 'decided, certain', from *cernere* 'to sift, decide']

1. [not before noun] confident and sure, without any doubts **SYN** sure

**certain (that)**

- I'm absolutely certain that I left the keys in the kitchen.
- I felt certain that I'd passed the test.

**certain who/what/how etc**

- I'm not certain when it will be ready.

**certain about/of**

- Now, are you certain about that?
- They were watching him. He was certain of it.

### REGISTER

In everyday English, people usually say **sure** rather than **certain**:

- I'm sure I gave him the money.

2. if something is certain, it will definitely happen or is definitely true:

- It now seems certain that there will be an election in May.
- Many people look certain to lose their jobs.
- It is wise to apply early to be certain of obtaining a place.
- It's not certain where he lived.
- His re-election was considered virtually certain.
- It is by no means certain that the deal will be accepted.
- If they stayed in the war zone they would face certain death.

3. **make certain**

a) to check that something is correct or true **SYN** make sure

**make certain (that)**

- We need to make certain that it's going to fit first.

b) to do something in order to be sure that something will happen **SYN** make sure

**make certain (that)**

- Secure the edges firmly to make certain that no moisture can get in.

4. **for certain** without doubt **SYN** for sure

**know/say (something) for certain**

- I know for certain it's in here somewhere.

**that's/one thing's for certain**

- One thing's for certain, he won't be back.

5. [only before noun] used to talk about a particular person, thing, group of things etc without naming them or describing them

exactly:

- " The library's only open at certain times of day.
- " I promised to be in a certain place by lunchtime.
- " There are certain things I just can't discuss with my mother.

certain kind/type/sort

- " the expectation of a certain kind of behaviour

in certain circumstances/cases etc

- " Extra funding may be available in certain circumstances.

## 6. a certain

a) used to say that an amount is not great:

- " You may need to do a certain amount of work in the evenings.

to a certain extent/degree (=partly, but not completely)

- " I do agree with his ideas to a certain extent.

b) enough of a particular quality to be noticed:

- " There's a certain prestige about going to a private school.

c) *formal* used to talk about someone you do not know but whose name you have been told:

- " a certain Mr Franks

• • •

## COLLOCATIONS (for Meaning 2)

### phrases

- **it seems certain that ...** It seemed certain that the other team would win.
- **somebody seems/looks/appears certain to do something** For a while the whole project looked certain to fail.
- **something is by no means certain** (=not definite) Victory was by no means certain for Smith.
- **something is far from certain** (=not definite) Success is far from certain.

### adverbs

- **fairly certain** Opposition to the changes is fairly certain.
- **almost/virtually certain** It is almost certain that she will be given a prison sentence. | Prices are virtually certain to increase.

### nouns

- **certain death** If they stayed in the war zone, they faced almost certain death.

• • •

## THESAURUS (for Meaning 2)

- **certain** if something is certain, you are completely sure that it will happen or is true: Success seems certain. | It is almost certain that there will be a change of government. | Nobody knows exactly who built the manor, but it is certain that an architect called John Sturges supplied the drawings.
- **definite** if something is definite, it is certain because someone has officially stated that it will happen, is true etc: I hope you can give me a definite answer soon. | The wedding will be next summer but a definite date has not been arranged yet. | I've got a good chance of getting the job, but it's not definite yet.
- **inevitable** if something, especially something bad, is inevitable, it is certain to happen and you cannot do anything to prevent it: War now seems inevitable. | It was inevitable that he would find out her secret sooner or later. | Facial wrinkles are the inevitable result of aging.
- **be bound to** if something is bound to happen, it is very likely to happen, especially because that is what usually happens in that kind of situation. **Be bound to** is less formal than **certain** and is very common in everyday spoken English: The kids are bound to be hungry when they get home – they always are. | My car broke down today. It was bound to happen sooner or later.
- **be assured of something** *formal* to be certain to get something good, or to be successful: After the success of its recent single, the band is now assured of a contract with a major record company. | He is virtually assured of becoming the next prime minister. | Our clients are assured of comfortable accommodation and the attention of our trained staff.
- **something is a foregone conclusion** if something is a foregone conclusion, its result is certain even though it has not happened yet: They were winning by such a large margin that victory seemed to be a foregone conclusion. | Party members believe it is a foregone conclusion that he will resign.

## II. certain<sup>2</sup> BrE<sup>2</sup> AmE<sup>2</sup> pronoun

**certain of somebody/something** *formal* particular people or things in a group:

- " Certain of the payments were made on Mr Maxwell's authority.

## certain

Freakuency Pack

12500 **438**<sup>MCW</sup>

15000 **310**<sup>COCA</sup>

RANGE: **1k CERTAIN** 152067

certain 71143

certainly 62229

certainty 3925

uncertain 6225

uncertainties 1516

uncertainty 6530

uncertainly 499

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

40168 **557**<sup>69889</sup> *jj*

<sup>1145</sup>18440<sup>1236</sup> *rr22*  
<sup>12</sup>224289<sup>13</sup> *nn1*  
<sup>5</sup>386911<sup>5</sup> *nnu*

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