



# DOUBT THAT vs DOUBT WHETHER/IF

In affirmative sentences, *whether* was in the past the only word considered acceptable for linking the verb *doubt* to a following clause, for example "*I doubt whether he will come*". Nowadays, ***doubt if*** and ***doubt that*** are both considered acceptable alternatives to ***doubt whether***.

## **Doubt whether /doubt if /doubt that**

- I **doubt whether** the new one will be any better.
- I **doubt** very much **whether** we can change it now.
- I **doubt if** anyone will be interested in the programme.
- You can complain, but I **doubt if** it'll make any difference.
- They had begun to **doubt (that)** it could be done.
- He promised to come but I **doubt (that)** he will.

**In negative sentences, use that after doubt**, for example *I don't doubt that he is telling the truth*. The old-fashioned form *not doubt but that*, as in *I do not doubt but that he is telling the truth*, is now rarely used and sounds very stiff and formal.

- I don't **doubt (that)** you're right, but I still disagree.
- I don't **doubt (that)** he will win.
- I never **doubted (that)** she would come.