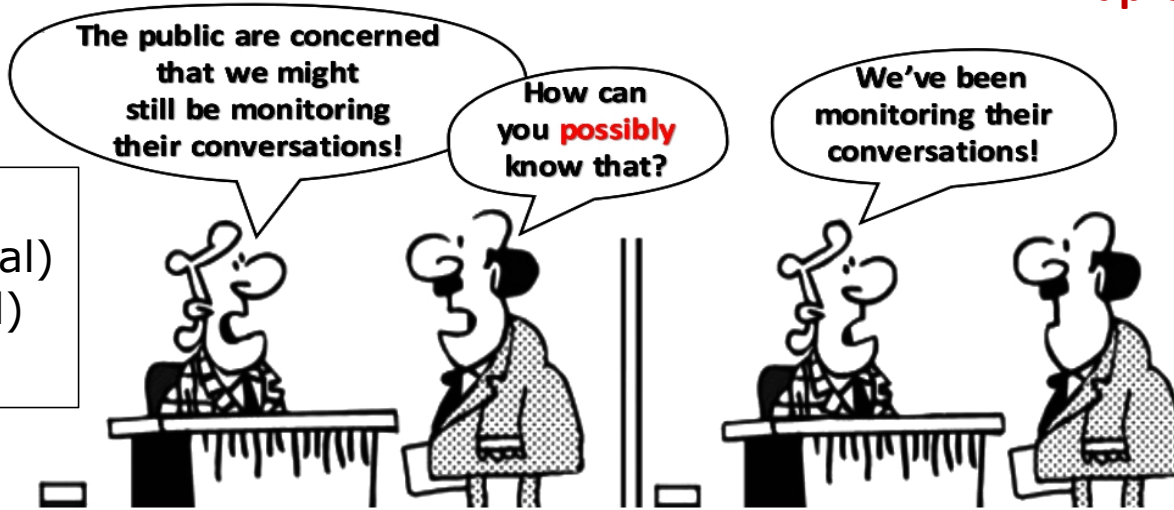




# POSSIBLY

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## REGISTER :



**POSSIBLY** (formal)  
PERHAPS (neutral)  
MAYBE (informal)

## COLLOCATIONS :

**QUITE/VERY** possibly  
= very likely  
He is quite possibly the most experienced climber in the world.

used for emphasizing that someone will do or has done as much as they can in order to make something happen.

- She's done everything she **could possibly** think of to help.
- We did all we **possibly could** to make her feel welcome.
- Doctors did everything they **possibly could** to save him.
- I will come as soon as I **possibly can**.

used with negatives, especially can't/couldn't, to say strongly that you cannot do something or that something cannot or could not happen or be done.

- I **can't possibly** tell you that!
- You **can't possibly** ask them to risk their lives.
- She **couldn't possibly** have heard what was said.

used for emphasizing your surprise or shock at something can/could someone possibly:

- What **could I possibly** have that you want?
- How **can anyone possibly** spend an hour in the shower?
- He **can't possibly** have drunk all that on his own!
- How **could anyone possibly** do that to her?

used in polite requests: could ... possibly

- **Could I possibly** ask you to move your chair a little?
- **Could I possibly** use your phone?
- **Could you possibly** close that window?
- **Could you possibly** give me a lift to work?

used when politely refusing offers:

- "Have another chocolate." "No, really, I **couldn't possibly**."
- "Here, I want you to have this." "Oh no, I **couldn't possibly**."