Position of adverbs of certainty and place

We use adverbs of certainty to say how sure we are of something. Examples are: certainly, definitely, clearly, obviously and probably.

Adverbs of certainty usually go in mid-position.

Study the following patterns.

Auxiliary verb + adverb

She will probably come.
The train has obviously been delayed.
Am / are / is / was / were + adverb

She is certainly right.
There is clearly something wrong.

Adverb + other verb

He probably thinks that he is the smartest. (NOT He thinks probably that ...)

I certainly feel better today.

Grammar notes

Maybe and perhaps usually come at the beginning of a clause.

Maybe you are right.
Perhaps he will come.

Adverbs of place

Adverbs of place say where something happens. Examples are: upstairs, around, here, in London, out of the window

Adverbs of place usually go at the end of a clause.

The children are playing in the garden.
Position of adverbs of certainty and place

Don’t throw things out of the window.
The old man sat in the corner.
There was a very tall tree at the end of the garden.
Initial position is also possible. This usually happens in a literary style.

At the end of the garden there was a very tall tree.