

Hedging Language

An important feature of [redacted] is the concept of **cautious language**, often called "**hedging**" or "**vague language**". In other words, it is necessary to make decisions about your stance on a particular subject, or the [redacted] you are making.

1. **Introductory verbs:** e.g. seem, [redacted], appear to be, [redacted], doubt, [redacted], suggest
2. **Certain lexical verbs** e.g. believe, [redacted]
3. **Certain modal verbs:** e.g. will, [redacted], could
4. **Adverbs of frequency** e.g. often, [redacted]
4. **Modal adverbs** e.g. certainly, [redacted], possibly, [redacted], arguably
5. **Modal adjectives** e.g. certain, [redacted], possible
6. **Modal nouns** e.g. assumption, [redacted]
7. **That clauses** e.g. It could be the case that .
e.g. It [redacted].
e.g. There [redacted].
8. **To-clause + adjective** e.g. It [redacted] obtain.
e.g. It is important to develop .
e.g. It [redacted] study.

Adapted from: <http://www.uefap.com/writing/feature/hedge.htm>

Exercise Practice

Rewrite these sentences using hedging language.

1. Playing violent video games causes more aggression, bullying, and fighting.
2. Mars [redacted] and the [redacted] for human colonization.
3. News reports [redacted] of media bias, [redacted] and agenda setting.
4. The main concerns for the [redacted] supplies and [redacted]. Both of these [redacted] by international leaders [redacted] years.
5. [redacted] that Climate Change is [redacted] activities.
6. The key factor [redacted] hierarchy and [redacted]
7. The impact of the UK's [redacted] to increased welfare costs. Consequently, this will [redacted] and an increased retirement age [redacted].
8. Everybody [redacted] the main cause [redacted] was subprime [redacted].

Possible Answers

1. It is **assumed that** playing violent video games **may** cause more aggression, bullying, and fighting.
2. Mars is **certainly the** [REDACTED] and **often considered** [REDACTED] planet for human colonization.

ALL ANSWERS ARE INCLUDED IN PAID VERSION...