

AE Academic English UK

Academic Writing

Hedging

EXAMPLE



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Introduction to Academic Writing

EXAMPLE

1. Who is it for?

This worksheet as part of a series of lessons is designed for international students who are aiming to study in a university where English is the medium of instruction. No prior knowledge of academic writing is required, but the ability to read instructions will be helpful.

2. How long will it take to complete the worksheet?

Depending on the level of the student, their knowledge of academic English, and prior subject knowledge, this lesson would expect to take 60-90 minutes to complete.

3. What is academic writing?

Academic writing is a particular writing style that is seen in academic papers and students' assignments. It includes certain textual and grammatical features; it contains a logical structure, and it involves using a more formal register than everyday communication.

4. What features of academic writing will this worksheet cover?

This worksheet will cover hedging.

5. What context will be used to practice academic writing?

The topic is 'global issues' and is connected to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These are 17 global goals that aim to create a better world for everyone by ending poverty and protecting the planet. Each lesson in the series contains the vocabulary from one or two SDGs; with this worksheet covering SDG3.

6. How to use this worksheet.

Students can use this independently or teachers can use it with their classes in either guided lessons or in a workshop type scenario.

Step 1: Look at the link at the beginning of each lesson for context.

Step 2: Look up the vocabulary in the 'vocabulary box' before completing the tasks.

Step 3: Read about the feature of academic writing for that lesson (Task 1).

Step 4: Work through each task reading the instructions carefully and checking the answers after each exercise by clicking on the links provided.

Step 5: Once the lesson is complete, move on to the next academic writing worksheet in our series, and apply what you have learnt to your writing.

Useful links for checking vocabulary

<https://www.merriam-webster.com>

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org>

<https://www.ldoceonline.com>

Hedging EXAMPLE

Context: SDG3: “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being at all ages” (United Nations, 2023).

Link: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal3>

Vocabulary list: Look up these words and phrases before you start the tasks.

natural disasters	Ebola	ultraviolet radiation	immune system	transmission
mortality rate	SARS	cholera	vaccine	pandemic
malaria	communicable disease	virus	mosquito	infectious disease
	water-borne illnesses	bacteria	parasite	

Task 1

Read about hedging before completing the following tasks.

Hedging (cautious or tentative language) is used to make ideas less absolute, less direct, or less certain. We can use the following language to indicate this.		
i.	Modal Verbs	Can; could; may; might; would; should
ii.	Modal Nouns	Possibility; assumption; necessity; probability
iii.	Modal Adjectives	Possible; likely, definite; conceivable; probable
iv.	Modal Adverbs	Definitely, clearly; certainly; possibly; probably
v.	Adverbs of frequency	Often; usually; sometimes; occasionally; regularly
vi.	Introductory verbs	Suggest; believe; think; indicate; appear; seem
vii.	‘That’ clauses	It is widely accepted that... It is generally agreed that... It could be the case that... One possible implication (of this) is that...

Task 2

Rewrite the following sentences using the prompts provided.

i.	[] have a devastating impact on people’s health.	
ii.	Pregnant females who recovered from [] in their breastmilk.	
iii.	[] damages the immune system.	
iv.	Wearing a cloth [] in blocking the transmission of SARS.	
Modal Adjectives		
v.	Fatalities in developing countries are not []	
vi.	The mortality rate [] pandemic will be high.	
vii.	[] could hamper the progress made in controlling diseases.	
viii.	Hospitals and clinics in developing [] and underequipped.	

ix.	_____ live in fragile communities.	
x.	Malaria symptoms start within 10-15 days of _____	
Introductory Verbs		
xi.	Non-_____ will be the main global health challenge of the 21 st _____	
xii.	Vaccination fear is increasing due to _____	
xiii.	Some _____ due to drug resistance.	
xiv.	_____ are connected to environmental, economic, and _____ social conditions.	

⇒ *Now check your answers here.*

Task 3

Identify the errors and rewrite the following the sentences.

i.	People who recover from Tetanus can _____.	
ii.	There _____ that water-borne illnesses can be prevented with good hygiene measures.	
iii.	_____ treated bed nets can help in the war against malaria.	
iv.	Tobacco use _____ burden with the cost of treating tobacco-related diseases on an _____.	
v.	Overloaded vehicles _____ many accidents in the developing world.	
vi.	_____ that every child in Africa should be vaccinated against malaria.	
vii.	_____ that maternal mortality rates can be reduced by improving access to _____	

⇒ *Now check your answers here.*

Task 4

Conduct some research on _____ and write a paragraph of around 100 words using a range of hedging language.

Task 5

Use this checklist to analyse your paragraph for hedging language.

Have you used...		Yes	No
i.			
ii.	Modal nouns?		
iii.			
iv.	Modal adverbs?		
v.			
vi.	Introductory verbs?		
vii.			

⇒ *Now compare your answer with the model answer here.*

Task 6

Underline the [redacted] in the model answer.

⇒ *Now check your answers here.*

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Hedging ANSWERS

Task 2

Rewrite the following sentences using the prompts provided.

Modal Verbs		
i.	█ have a devastating impact on people's health.	Natural disasters <u>can have</u> a devastating impact on people's health.
ii.	Pregnant females who recovered from █ in their breastmilk.	Pregnant females who recovered from Ebola <u>may still carry</u> the virus in their breastmilk.

ALL ANSWERS INCLUDED IN THE PAID VERSION...

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