

Hedging **EXAMPLE**

Aim: To support students in their understanding and use of hedging (cautious/tentative) language.

Time: 60 minutes plus homework task.

Lesson Suggestion

Lead in

- Distribute or project **worksheet 1**. Students ask & answer the **lead in** questions.
- Feedback: whole class. Display the writing criteria for your course and highlight how grammar and academic style is assessed.

Guided Practice

1. **Task 1:** students analyse the two paragraphs & answer the questions.
2. Feedback: project or distribute **worksheet 1 task 1 ANSWERS**.
3. Students read the **language review**: Hedging: verbs, adverbs, probability, 'that' clauses.
4. Feedback: find out if the explanations are clear.
5. Distribute or project **worksheet 2. Tasks 1 - 4:** students work through each task comparing with a partner after each stage.
6. Feedback: project or distribute **worksheet 2 tasks 1-4 ANSWERS**.
7. **Task 5:** students error correct the sentences & then compare with a partner.
8. Feedback: project or distribute **worksheet 2 task 5 ANSWERS**.
9. **Task 6:** students rewrite a paragraph using the hedging words and phrases learnt.
10. Feedback: project or distribute **worksheet 2 task 6 ANSWERS**.

Freer Practice

- Distribute or project **worksheet 3. Task 1:** students write a paragraph on studying abroad.
- Feedback: students compare with the suggested model **ANSWERS**.

Homework

- Students select a topic from their subject & write a paragraph paying particular attention to hedging language.
- Feedback options: i. Teachers - take in and mark. Use correction code: <https://www.academic-englishuk.com/error-correction> ii. Students - peer feedback. Use **checklist** provided.

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Worksheet 1: Introduction to hedging

Lead in

- Discuss these questions with a partner.
- What _____?
- What have you already learnt about academic writing in terms of grammar?
- How is grammar _____ on?

Task 1

- Read the following two paragraphs. How do they differ?
- Why has the writer included extra language in paragraph B?
- Highlight the extra language in paragraph B.

Paragraph A

The relevance of homework in today's education system is one of intense debate. Homework helps _____, as well as giving them more time to revise and catch up on any classwork missed. Furthermore, students _____ are _____ a teacher, setting homework allows them to keep track of a student's progress. However, according to _____ Sydney, setting homework has the opposite effect. The evidence from researchers indicates that students who _____ and exams. This supports the fact that students are overwhelmed by how much _____ time is spent _____ with their family or friends.

Paragraph B

The relevance of homework in today's education system is one of intense debate. It is widely accepted that homework _____, as well as potentially giving them more time to revise and catch up on any classwork missed. Furthermore, students who are regularly _____, responsible and organised. For a teacher, setting homework can allow them to keep _____. However, _____ of Sydney, setting homework appears to have the opposite effect. The evidence from researchers _____ may _____ to support the assumption that students are overwhelmed by how much homework they _____ be better _____ with their family or friends.

Language Review: Hedging

- Read the following rules about hedging.
- Are any of these new to you? Discuss with your partner.

Hedging is using tentative, cautious and vague language to show your stance in academic writing by making your claims or arguments less absolute.

<p>Verbs</p> <p><i>Active voice</i> -Many people tend to...</p> <p>-The results seem to...</p> <p><i>Passive voice</i> -It is as [redacted]</p>	<p>Further Examples</p> <p>appear to believe think suggest</p>
<p>Adverbs</p> <p><i>Before figures</i> -Approximately half of the population...</p> <p><i>Before main verbs</i> -The company presumably decided to...</p> <p><i>After auxiliary or modal verbs</i> -It has commonly been proven...</p> <p><i>After the verb to be</i> -The results are somewhat...</p>	<p>Further Examples</p> <p>roughly [redacted] conceivably potentially</p>
<p>Probability</p> <p><i>Modal verbs</i> -Interest rates may continue to...</p> <p><i>Adjectives</i> -It [redacted]</p> <p><i>Adverbs</i> -Perhaps one of the biggest advantages is...</p> <p><i>Nouns</i> -Due to the likelihood of/that...</p>	<p>Further Examples</p> <p>might can/could [redacted] probable/probably/probability certain/certainly/certainty maybe</p>
<p>'That' clauses</p> <p><i>Followed by a main clause</i> -It appears to support the assumption that [redacted] in-store purchases</p> <p>-The evidence indicates that fewer people are using <i>WhatsApp</i> these days</p>	<p>Further Examples</p> <p>It is widely accepted that It is generally agreed that It could be the case that One [redacted] that A possible explanation for this might be that</p>

Worksheet 2: Guided Practice

Task 1: Verbs

- Rewrite the following sentences using the verb in brackets.
- Compare with your partner.

1. In North America, grizzly bears are more aggressive than the American black bear. (tend)

2. The number of [redacted] company is struggling to stay afloat. (suggest)

3. The number [redacted] increasing. (appear)

4. The number of languages worldwide [redacted]. (claim)

5. The study showed that computer [redacted] a student's pronunciation. (seem)

Task 2: Adverbs

- Underline the best adverb in the following sentences.
- Compare with your partner.

1. When a new supermarket opens in an area, smaller shops **quite/usually/roughly** suffer a decline in trade.

2. The manager [redacted] **seemingly/doubtfully/likely** to minimize costs.

3. The results [redacted] **reasonably/possibly** accurate.

4. The [redacted] **approximately/quite/somewhat**.

5. There are **possibly/approximately/usually** double the [redacted] of English as there are native speakers.

Task 3: Probability

- Rewrite the following sentences using the word in brackets. Make any other changes needed to make each sentence accurate.
- Compare with a partner.

1. The recent rise in unemployment will lead to an increase in social problems. (might)

2. The number of _____ . (unlikely)

3. The airline _____ 2020. (conceivably)

4. Manchester City _____ Play breaches. (probably)

5. One explanation for the _____ to the “economic shock” of the coronavirus pandemic. (possible)

Task 4: ‘That’ clauses

- Select a word from the box to correct the following sentences.
- Compare with a partner.

generally

could

been

may

there

1. It has suggested that a vaccine could be found by June next year.

2. It be the _____ obsolete.

3. The results indicate _____ impact on cognition.

4. It is agreed that _____ way to shop.

5. Is the assumption [redacted] standards.
-

Task 5: Verbs, adverbs, probability & 'that' clauses

- Correct the mistakes in the following sentences. **Some sentences are correct.**
- Compare with a partner.

1. It has been argue that word of mouth is the best form of marketing.
-

2. It is almost [redacted] in the near future.
-

3. Reading could consider [redacted] a student's vocabulary.
-

4. In 2020, 8 [redacted] video.
-

5. The number of electric vehicles sold [redacted] billion.
-

Task 6: Verbs, adverbs, probability & 'that' clauses

- Use hedging language to replace the words in italics.
- Compare with your partner.

The popularity of car sharing apps such as 'ZipCar' or 'Car2go' *has increased* year-on-year since their introduction over ten years ago. They [redacted], as *it gives* [redacted], network and become less dependent on their parents. These apps *are also less* [redacted], and as there are fewer cars on the road, *it is better* for the environment. However, these apps *are met* with trepidation, with [redacted] with drop off and pick up points and personality clashes with the driver or other [redacted] able [redacted] concerning the driver and the vehicle. The apps *cannot guarantee* safety and security, unlike [redacted] *are more reliable*.

Worksheet 3: Freer Practice

Task 1

- Write a paragraph on studying abroad using hedging language.

Write your paragraph here:



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Homework

- Select a topic from your subject and write a short paragraph using hedging language.

Peer feedback

- Improve your own writing skills by analysing your partner's paragraph:

Has your partner...	Yes / No / Not Sure
used a variety of verbs and nouns to express caution?	
correctly  and adjectives to show caution?	
accurately shown they can use a number of tentative 'that' clauses?	
at any  and would benefit from further hedging?	

Hedging (ANSWERS)

Worksheet 1

Task 1

The relevance of homework in today's education system is one of intense debate. **It is widely accepted that** homework **could help** students engage further with their studies, as well as **potentially** giving them more time to revise and catch....

ALL ANSWERS ARE INCLUDED IN THE PAID VERSION...

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