

## Language Used in Hedging

<b>Modal auxiliary verbs</b>	may, might, can, could, would, should	'Such a measure might be more sensitive to changes in health after specialist treatment.'
<b>Modal lexical verbs doubting and evaluating rather than merely describing</b>	to seem, to appear, to believe, to assume, to suggest, to estimate, to tend, to think, to argue, to indicate, to propose, to speculate	'In spite of its limitations, the study appears to have a number of important strengths.'
<b>Probability adjectives</b>	possible, probable, un/likely	'It is likely to result in failure.'
<b>Nouns</b>	assumption, claim, possibility, estimate, suggestion	'A reasonable estimate is that one in five marriages end in divorce.'
<b>Adverbs</b>	perhaps, possibly, probably, practically, virtually, likely, presumably,	'There is, perhaps, a good reason why she chose to write in the first person.'
<b>Approximators of degree, quantity, frequency and time</b>	approximately, roughly, about, often, occasionally, generally, usually, somewhat, somehow a	'Fever is present in about a third of cases.'
<b>Introductory phrases</b>	believe, to the best of their knowledge, it is their view that, they feel that	'They believe that there is no simple explanation.'
<b>"If" clauses</b>	if true, if anything	'If true, their study contradicts the myth that men make better managers than women.'
<b>Compound hedges</b>	seems reasonable, looks probable	Such compound hedges can be double hedges (it may suggest that; it seems likely that; it would indicate that; this probably indicates); treble hedges (it seems reasonable to assume that); quadruple hedges (it would seem somewhat unlikely that, it may appear somewhat speculative that) and so on.