

HEDGING - WORKSHEET

PART A: GENERALIZED STATEMENTS

Rewrite each statement twice:

- 1) once with a lexical verb (e.g. assume, believe, suggest, think, seem); and
- 2) once with an adjective (e.g. possible, probable) or adverb (e.g. probably, usually, possibly, perhaps, likely).

For example: The bus will arrive in ten minutes.

- **I believe** the bus will arrive in ten minutes.
- The bus will **likely** be here in ten minutes.

1. Eating fast food is bad and should be avoided.
2. He is guilty.
3. Computers are taking away our privacy.
4. Paper newspapers will disappear within the next decade.
5. I am right.
6. Studying for standardized tests does not help students learn how to communicate in English.
7. Never use that font for websites.
8. She was angry.
9. He said turn left at the intersection.

PART B: HEDGE WITH A WORD

Rewrite each sentence by adding one adverb to hedge:

- hopefully, evidently, basically, apparently, somewhat
1. People are good.
 2. The earth is getting hotter.
 3. The house fire was caused by a problem with the heater.
 4. Politicians are dishonest.
 5. We will meet tonight at 8pm.

PART C: WRITE SENTENCES

Make complete sentences with these words and collocations.

1. It is usually true that ...
2. It is possible that ...
3. The majority of
4. ... sort of ...
5. Generally,
6. About

POSSIBLE ANSWERS

PART A: GENERALIZED STATEMENTS

Rewrite each statement twice: once with a lexical verb and once with an adjective and adverb.

1. Eating fast food is bad and should be avoided.
 - **Many people think** eating fast food is bad and should be avoided.
 - Eating fast food is **likely** bad and should **probably** be avoided.
2. He is guilty.
 - **Some people believe** he is guilty.
 - **It is possible** that he is guilty.
3. Computers are taking away our privacy.
 - **I believe** computers are taking away our privacy.
 - Computers are **probably** taking away our privacy.
4. Paper newspapers will disappear within the next decade.
 - **A few people believe** that paper newspapers will disappear within the next decade.
 - **It is likely that** paper newspapers will disappear within the next decade.
5. I am right.
 - **I suggest that** I am right.
 - I am **probably** right.
6. Studying for standardized tests does not help students learn how to communicate in English.
 - **I think** studying for standardized tests does not help students learn how to communicate in English.
 - Studying for standardized tests **probably** does not help students learn how to communicate in English.
7. Never use that font for websites.
 - Web designers **believe** we should never use that font for websites.
 - **Perhaps** we **shouldn't** use that font for websites.
8. She was angry.
 - She **seemed** angry.
 - She was **probably** angry.
9. He said turn left at the intersection.
 - **I think** he said turn left at the intersection.
 - He **probably** said turn left at the intersection.

PART B: HEDGE WITH A WORD

Rewrite each sentence by adding one word to hedge:

- hopefully, evidently, basically, apparently, somewhat
1. People are good.
 - Basically, people are good.
 2. The earth is getting hotter.
 - Evidently, the earth is getting hotter.
 3. The house fire was caused by a problem with the heater.
 - Apparently, the house fire was caused by a problem with the heater.
 4. Politicians are dishonest.
 - Politicians are somewhat dishonest.
 5. We will meet tonight at 8pm.
 - Hopefully, we will meet tonight at 8pm.

PART C: WRITE SENTENCES

Make complete sentences with these words and collocations.

1. **It is usually true** that the star of an American movie does not die in the film.
2. **It is possible** that the Big Bang theory is not correct and that not everything in the universe came from a single explosion.
3. **The majority of people** in South Korea read at least eight books per year.
4. Her boyfriend is **sort of** tall.
5. **Generally**, students in Japan like to eat noodles.
6. **About** 33% of the world's population lives in China and India.