

43 Making indirect statements

Sometimes you may wish to avoid giving definite facts or personal opinions. This is known as “hedging.” Certain words and indirect statements can help you with this.

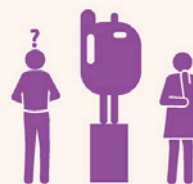
 **New language** Indirect statements

Aa Vocabulary Hedging language

 **New skill** Expressing uncertainty

43.1 KEY LANGUAGE HEDGING

Hedging words and phrases can be added to a sentence to make its meaning less definite or direct.



HEDGING VERBS

Polls **suggest** that locals dislike the new statue.

HEDGING ADVERBS

It is **arguably** the strangest statue around.

HEDGING PHRASES

To some extent, locals feel their views are being ignored.



43.2 FILL IN THE GAPS USING THE HEDGING LANGUAGE IN THE PANEL

Often

_____ people use hedging language if they do not have exact figures.

- 1 There are _____ five hundred employees in this factory.
- 2 These new figures _____ a downward trend in sales.
- 3 The director _____ took all of the money from the company.
- 4 This kind of market behavior _____ an underlying problem.
- 5 _____ by some that her opinions are controversial.
- 6 _____ they are not enjoying the film very much.
- 7 Academics _____ to use hedging language if something is not proven.

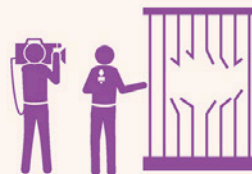


allegedly indicate It looks like tend approximately ~~Often~~ It has been said suggests



43.3 KEY LANGUAGE “SEEM” AND “APPEAR”

“Seem” and “appear” are words that you can use to distance yourself from a statement. This is useful if you are not sure if the statement is true.



The prisoners { **seem**
appear } to have vanished.

“Seem” and “appear” are often followed by another verb in the infinitive.

It { **seems**
appears } that the prison cell was left unguarded.

You can also use “It seems” or “It appears” followed by a “that” clause.

It would { **seem**
appear } that a file was used to saw the bars.

“Would” adds even more distance or uncertainty.



43.4 CROSS OUT THE INCORRECT WORDS IN EACH SENTENCE

The detectives **seem** / ~~**suggest**~~ to have found an important piece of information.

- 1 It **appears** / ~~**believes**~~ that two prisoners have escaped from the police station.
- 2 I don't trust her. I think it ~~**tends**~~ / ~~**looks like**~~ she is guilty of both crimes.
- 3 They ~~**seem**~~ / ~~**suggest**~~ to have found more important evidence to support their case.
- 4 I ~~**believe**~~ / ~~**indicate**~~ that the police have made a mistake and arrested the wrong man.
- 5 I don't know, but it would ~~**appear**~~ / ~~**tend**~~ that he stole the car when the owner was inside.
- 6 With a huge number of hit records, the Beatles are ~~**arguably**~~ / ~~**allegedly**~~ the best band ever.
- 7 After a difficult year, all our figures ~~**appear**~~ / ~~**indicate**~~ that sales are finally improving.
- 8 It's too soon to judge. He ~~**probably**~~ / ~~**approximately**~~ committed the crime, but we're not sure.
- 9 We used to go to Spain a lot. Sometimes we drove there, but we ~~**often**~~ / ~~**probably**~~ flew.





43.5 READ THE ARTICLE AND WRITE THE HEDGING LANGUAGE IN THE CORRECT PANELS

THE DAILY POST

NEWS | BUSINESS | LIFE

LATEST NEWS

Town in chaos as burglar strikes again

POSTED TUESDAY, 7:00AM

In the latest incident in what is arguably the most unusual series of crimes in the area, the Daylight Burglar has apparently struck again. It looks like this time he has targeted cheese from victims' refrigerators. It has only been a few days since the last series of burglaries, but it seems that the Daylight Burglar's spree is not over yet. If anything, these new crimes suggest that he has no plans to stop soon.

The Daylight Burglar tends to take fairly unusual items of little value. Last week, single socks were taken from approximately 20 homes. Before that, it was teapots.

It could be said that this burglar is harmless, but that is not how the victims feel. Often, they are left traumatized by the fact that someone has broken into their homes. "It's very scary. To some extent we no longer feel safe at home. We all assume it's a local person, probably a someone we all know," said burglary victim Sasha Johnson.

It would appear that each week the burglar targets one unusual item to steal from people's homes. We believe that the police have no clue who the burglar is, but the evidence indicates that it is someone who likes tea and cheese.



WEATHER 

SPORT 

TRAVEL 

ARTS 

ADVERBS

arguably

VERBS

suggest

PHRASES

it looks like





43.6 LISTEN TO THE AUDIO AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS



A local news station is reporting about a popular video that has been posted online.

The report is about a video that was famous last year.

True ☐ False ☒

1 The video was recorded on Sara's mother's smartphone.

True ☐ False ☐

2 The video has been watched just under a million times.

True ☐ False ☐

3 The cat screeched and waved her paws at the hissing snake.

True ☐ False ☐

4 The snake, or a similar one, had been seen on other properties.

True ☐ False ☐

5 The animal charity said that these snakes often attack young people.

True ☐ False ☐



43.7 FILL IN THE GAPS IN THE SUMMARY USING THE HEDGING LANGUAGE IN THE PANEL

It looks like three-year-old Sara Wilson is fine after her brush with a snake last week.

1 An online video _____ shows her pet cat, Mini, protecting her.

2 _____ that the snake was frightened away by Mini.

3 Interviews with neighbors _____ that the snake had been seen on other properties.

4 A local animal charity _____ that it would be unusual for such a snake to attack.

5 The charity said that these snakes _____ to be extremely shy.

6 They also stated that _____ these kinds of snakes are pets that have escaped.

~~looks~~

tend

often

suggested

indicate

apparently

It would appear



43 CHECKLIST



Indirect statements ☐

Aa Hedging language ☐



Expressing uncertainty ☐