

# DXJAKD2

## Academic skills course

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Lesson 2



## Rewriting an informal email (previous lesson task)

- style – some statements/sentences too straightforward
- introducing negative news – we regret to announce / we are sorry to announce
- consider + ing verb
- do not write commas before that
- passive form – have st done (*if you want to publish it* – if you want to have it published, in terms of style – if you want us to reconsider our decision ...)

Barbara Kamler and Pat Thomson  
Helping Doctoral Students Write

Routledge, New York, 2016

## Task 1 – sample answers

- A number of researchers have insisted on the urgency of discussing the consequences of overpopulation. (*introducing work*)
- As Table III shows, there is a significant difference between the two groups. (*reporting results*)
- Respondents were asked to indicate whether they found the new version of the software better than the previous one. (*methodology*)
- This study has raised important questions about the nature of the problem. (*conclusions, recommendations for further research*)

## Task 2 - key

The *research was conducted* in the university Open Space Zone to create an inspiring atmosphere. The *learners were taken out* of their statistics lecture and *were tested* in groups of three. All the tests *were conducted* in January 2015. The tests consisted of two parts. First, the *learners were asked to* compute standard deviation on (this was presented in chapter two) within a time limit. *They were then given* a set of statistical output, which *they were instructed to analyse* and evaluate in the groups. I remained in the room while the learners performed the task.

# Hedging

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N\\_gM\\_GN\\_UORw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N_gM_GN_UORw)

02:05 – 05:35

# HEDGING

- intentional use of noncommittal language
- vague rather than assertive statements
- expressions of degrees of probability
- to reduce the risk of opposition
- to be more precise in reporting results
- politeness (positive or negative) strategies
- conformity with a certain writing style

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



## Task 5 – suggested answers

- Our results ***seem to suggest*** that in less industrialised countries the extensive use of land to grow exportation products ***tends to*** impoverish these countries' populations even more.
- Johnson (2007) ***appears to*** ignore the adverse psychological side-effects of this approach.
- The risk of the new global financial crisis ***may be*** overstated.
- Although group A indicates ***a certain degree of*** heterogeneity of the sample, each unit features ***some*** distinguishing features when exposed to different conditions.
- In these FTIR studies we ***attempt to*** gain insight into the secondary structure of fibrinogen and its domains.
- Our samples gave ***essentially*** the same patterns irrespective of ...
- ...sponsorship ***may*** generate higher levels of awareness and ***may*** lead to the association of a wider range of attributes with the brand promoted.