

Academic English- Hedging and Quoting Sources

Change the statements below to make them softer/ more accurate, hedging/ generalising or being precise about the information quoted. All can be changed just by adding words, but you can also change or cut out words. Many different answers are possible. Start with the easiest ones below.

- 1 ... is thought to be...
- 2 According to experts,...
- 3 All the results match the assumption that...
- 4 47% of Japanese people believe that...
- 5 I would agree with Hutton's conclusion that...
- 6 Baxter et al. support Smith's statement that...
- 7 Dean and Deluca have a different point of view, namely...
- 8 It was thought that...
- 9 Jones provides evidence that...
- 10 Lawrence's view is that...
- 11 Looking at the data on this topic, it can be said that...
- 12 The evidence suggests that...
- 13 The authority on this matter is Josephs, who says...
- 14 The best translation of that quotation is...
- 15 Smith and Wesson prove that...
- 16 The consensus among experts in the field is that...
- 17 The theory developed in this paper owes a debt to that of Drew.
- 18 The papers on the same topic reveal that...
- 19 This paper draws on the work of Underwood
- 20 This paper takes its figures from...
- 21 Those responses are consistent with the theories of Justin which are outlined in...
- 22 To summarise Grant's views on the matter,...
- 23 We can dismiss Johnson's idea that...

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Looked at the gapped versions below if you need some help. Gapped sentences version

1 is thought to be 2 According to experts 3 All the results	1	is	thought	to be
3 All the results	2	According to	ding to experts	
3	3	All the results		_ match the assumption that
3			47% of Japanese people _	believe that
6 Baxter et al	5		i would	agree
6 Baxter et al		with Hutton's	0	conclusion that
7 Dean and Deluca have a different point of view, namely 8 8 It was thought that 9 9 Jones provides 9 Jones provides	6	Baxter et al.		support Smith's statement
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14	13			authority
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Split up and mixed up answers

Pick one at random and see if you can fit it in somewhere a substantial amount of according to Edwards according to her recent work almost certainly almost complete almost completely although other surveys give different results answered that they apparent apparently appear to at this point attempt to available by a substantial minority of experts in the field by many by most of the general public by previous generations that... by some by some non-experts certainly claim to be able to classic clear clearly completely considerable convincing could be said to prove that... despite some reservations, especially... fairly convincing fully generally good in her book... in her paper... in the last twelve months in the paper... in the sample group of 1000 people including... large largely main many



more or less most most important most of most recent most relevant most reliable most well-known most widely quoted most widely recognised much of obviously often original overall overwhelming overwhelmingly perhaps present primarily probably provisional publically available/ readily available published rather convincingly reasonable recent relevant roughly safely seem to so far some some important some of some well-respected somewhat state that they substantial such as... tentatively that we looked at the (vast) majority of until comparatively recently which we took into consideration who were surveyed with a reasonable level of certainty



Mixed up answers- Some can be used in more than one place

- (publically/ readily) available/ most relevant/ most well-known/ most reliable
- Almost certainly/ Perhaps/ Probably
- Although other surveys give different results, according to Edwards
- apparent/ present/ almost complete
- At this point/ Despite some reservations,
- attempt to/ roughly
- available/ relevant/ most relevant
- by many/ by most of the general public/ by some non-experts/ by a substantial minority of experts in the field
- claim to be able to/ apparently/ could be said to prove that...
- clearly/ obviously
- considerable/ substantial/ large
- especially...
- generally/ often
- in her book/ in her paper...
- in the book.../ in the paper.../ according to her recent work
- main
- more or less
- more or less/ probably/ almost certainly
- most important
- Most of/ The majority of/ The vast majority of
- most recent/ published/ most widely quoted
- most widely recognised
- much of/ most of/ some of
- overall
- perhaps/ probably
- primarily/ overwhelmingly/ largely/ somewhat
- provisional
- recent/ classic
- recent/ original
- safely/ probably/ certainly
- seem to/ appear to
- seem to/ appear to/ fully/ almost completely
- seem to/ appear to/ state that they
- so far/ that we looked at/ in the last twelve months
- some/ reasonable/ fairly convincing/ good/ rather convincingly/ convincing/ clear/ overwhelming/ a substantial amount of
- somewhat/ completely/ almost completely
- such as/ including...
- tentatively/ generally/ almost completely
- the vast majority of/ the majority of/ most/ many/ some/ some important/ some wellrespected
- until comparatively recently/ by some/ by previous generations that...
- which we took into consideration
- who were surveyed/ in the sample group of 1000 people/ answered that they
- with a reasonable level of certainty



Suggested answers

Note: It is often too much to have hedging phrases in all the positions given.

- 1 ...is generally/ often thought by many/ by most of the general public/ by some non-experts/ by a substantial minority of experts in the field to be...
- 2 According to the vast majority of/ the majority of/ most/ many/ some/ some important/ some well-respected experts such as/ including...
- 3 All the results so far/ that we looked at/ in the last twelve months + seem to/ appear to + more or less match the assumption that...
- 4 Although other surveys give different results, according to Edwards, 47% of Japanese people who were surveyed/ in the sample group of 1000 people/ answered that they believe that...
- 5 At this point/ Despite some reservations, I would tentatively/ generally/ almost completely agree with Hutton's provisional conclusion that...
- 6 Baxter et al. **seem to/ appear to/ fully/ almost completely** support Smith's statement that...
- 7 Dean and Deluca seem to/ appear to/ state that they have a somewhat/ completely/ almost completely different point of view, namely...
- 8 It was thought **until comparatively recently/ by some/ by previous generations** that...
- 9 Jones provides **some/ reasonable/ fairly convincing/ good/ rather convincingly/ convincing/ clear/ overwhelming/ a substantial amount of** evidence that...
- 10 Lawrence's overall view in the book.../ in the paper.../ according to her recent work is that...
- 11 Looking at the available/ publically available/ readily available/ most relevant/ most well-known/ most reliable data on this topic, it can perhaps/ probably be said with a reasonable level of certainty that...
- 12 Most of/ The majority of/ The vast majority of the available/ relevant/ most relevant evidence which we took into consideration suggests that...
- 13 Almost certainly/ Perhaps/ Probably the most widely recognised authority on this matter is Josephs, who says...
- 14 Almost certainly/ Perhaps/ Probably the best translation of that quotation is...
- 15 Smith and Wesson claim to be able to/ apparently/ could be said to prove that...
- 16 The **apparent/ present/ almost complete** consensus among experts in the field is that...
- 17 The **main** theory developed in this paper owes a **considerable**/ **substantial**/ **large** debt to that of Drew.
- 18 The most recent/ published/ most widely quoted papers on the same topic seem to/ appear to reveal that...
- 19 This paper clearly/ obviously draws primarily/ overwhelmingly/ largely/ somewhat on the recent/ classic work of Underwood especially...
- 20 This paper takes much of/ most of/ some of its most important figures from...
- 21 Those responses are **more or less/ probably/ almost certainly** consistent with the theories of Justin which are outlined in...
- 22 To attempt to/ roughly summarise Grant's recent/ original views on the matter in her book/ in her paper...,..
- 23 We can safely/ probably/ certainly dismiss Johnson's idea that...