

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...



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 _____ 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...



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 well-respected
- 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...