

## Being cautious - hedging

Devices that distance the author from a proposition

It is thought that ...

It is believed that ...

It has been reported that ...

It is a widely held view that ...

It has commonly been assumed that ...

According to Smith (2002), ...

According to recent reports, ...

According to many in the field ...

Many scholars hold the view that ...

Smith (2001) holds the view that ...

Recent research has suggested that ...

There is some evidence to suggest that ...

If Smith's (2001) findings are accurate, ...

Being cautious when giving explanations

These frequent storms	may be could be might be are almost certainly		due to climate change.
It may be It is likely It could be It is possible It is probable It is almost certain	the more extreme weather		is a result of climate change.
A likely explanation A probable explanation A possible explanation	is that	these frequent storms	are a result of climate change.

Being cautious when explaining results

This inconsistency may be due to ...

This discrepancy could be attributed to ...

A possible explanation for this might be that ...

This rather contradictory result may be due to ...

It seems possible that these results are due to ...

The observed increase in X could be attributed to ...

The possible interference of X cannot be ruled out ...

There are several possible explanations for this result.

There are two likely causes for the differences between ...

A possible explanation for these results may be the lack of adequate ...

Since this difference has not been found elsewhere it is probably not due to ...

**Source: Academic Phrasebank**

<https://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/>