



# HOW SCIENTISTS HEDGE

*Teach words to show uncertainty.*



## THE IDEA

Scientists often don't say something is 100% true.

They use hedging words to show uncertainty.

These words make their claims more accurate.



## IN THE CLASSROOM

- Teach common hedging words.
- Show examples from science texts.
- Use a simple sentence frame.
- Give time to practise.
- Use it in speaking and writing.

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### TEACH THE WORDS

#### Give useful hedging words.

might

probably

could

it seems

possibly

may

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### SHOW EXAMPLES

#### Use it in a science example.

The results **suggest** it **might** be due to the temperature.



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### PRACTISE AND APPLY

#### Let students use it.

Give a simple question to answer.

*It might be ...**It could be ...**The results suggest ...**It seems ...*

### WHY IT WORKS

- Helps students make careful, accurate claims.
- Builds academic language.
- Useful in science and other subjects.
- Supports critical thinking.



#### EAL UPGRADE

Create a hedging word bank with simple examples.



#### TRY IT TOMORROW

Give a science question. Ask students to answer using one hedging word and a sentence frame.



#### TEACHER LANGUAGE

"Can you say that more carefully?"  
"What word shows uncertainty?"  
"Could there be another reason?"  
"How might we say this?"