

Grammar

Hedging

Use hedging expressions to distance yourself from facts or opinions that you cannot prove are true.

Hedging with verbs

it **seems** that ...

it **appears** that ...

sources **seem to suggest** ...

the results **would appear**

to show ...

Hedging with *would*

it **would** seem that ...

it **would** appear that ...

Hedging with the passive voice

it is widely **recognised**

that ...

there **are not believed**

to be ...

it is not **known** ...

it is not **known** ...

Hedging with noun phrases

there is **no / little / some**

doubt ...

there is **no / little / some**

evidence ...

there is **some discussion** ...

1 Work with a partner. Look at the expressions you added to the extracts in Listening, Exercise 2 and find expressions that show the writer believes there is ...

- a) very strong evidence. c) weak evidence.
b) fairly strong evidence. d) unreliable evidence.

2 Read the sentences (a–e) and look at the information below. Decide if the sentences are true or false. Correct the ones that are false.

- a) It seems that most people enjoy life in the country.
b) It appears that very few people who live in a city would prefer to live in the country.
c) The results from the first survey seem to suggest that most people are happy to stay in the country.
d) On the other hand, the second survey would seem to show that most people who live in the country would prefer to move to the city.
e) Older people are not believed to be as happy with city life as younger people. But there is little evidence in the surveys to back this up.

The results of two new surveys have just been published in which people living in rural and urban areas were asked about how happy they are with where they live. Below are some of the results.

	Survey 1	Survey 2
People who enjoy living in cities	79%	72%
People who live in a city, but would prefer to live in a rural area	35%	43%
People who live in a city, but spend as much time as possible outside the city	47%	29%
People who live in rural areas, but would prefer to live in a city	62%	36%
Percentage of these who are under 30	84%	–
Percentage of these who are over 50	13%	–


Do you think the results would be the same in your country?

3 Look at the sentences (a–e) in Exercise 2 again and underline all the hedging expressions.

4 Work with your partner. Rewrite these statements using the words in brackets.

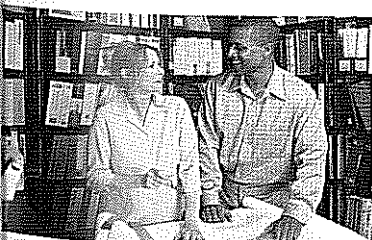
- a) Most young people prefer to live in large cities because of the job opportunities. (seem)
b) Older people living on their own get very lonely in big cities. (little doubt)
c) People who live in the country are generally more healthy than city dwellers. (some discussion)
d) Life in the country is much less stimulating than life in a big city. (would not appear)
e) There is far less violent crime in the country. (generally accepted)
f) People suffer from sleep deprivation in big cities. (little evidence)

Do you agree with the sentences you've written?

5  1.24 Listen to Sharon and Derek discussing a newspaper story about the survey. Make notes about the reasons young people prefer to live in a city.

6 Work with your partner. Write the story as it would have appeared in the newspaper. Use no more than 120 words. Then compare your story with the version on page 129.

7  Grammar Extra 3, Part 1 page 136. Read the explanations and do Exercise 1.



▲ Sharon and Derek

Unit 3 Hedging. Inversion after negative and limiting adverbials

Part 1: Hedging

Hedging = to avoid answering a question, or making a statement, in a direct way. You can use a range of expressions to do this:

- **Verbs**
Use verbs such as *seem, appear, suggest*.
It appears that people are happier in the city.
- To further distance yourself from the answer or statement, use *would*.
It would appear that people are happier in the city.
- **Passive**
Use the passive with verbs such as *think, recognise, believe, report* and *know* to show that an opinion is not necessarily your own. *It is widely recognised that ... It has been reported that ...*
- **Noun phrases**
Use noun phrases to explain your attitude to the reliability of a statement.
Strong evidence: *there is little / no doubt, there is little / no discussion*
Fairly strong evidence: *there is some evidence / there is some discussion / there is some doubt*
Unreliable statement: *there is little / no evidence*

► Now do Exercise 1.

Part 2: Inversion after negative and limiting adverbials

Sometimes a negative or limiting adverbial is placed at the beginning of a sentence to create emphasis. This effect is most frequently found in writing and is considered both formal and literary.

Negative adverbials

Adverbial phrases which contain words such as *no, not, never, no sooner, not until, never before*

Limiting adverbials

Adverbials such as *seldom, rarely, hardly, barely, little* or adverbial phrases that contain the word *only*:
only after I had taken the test, only by bribing the officer ...

Inversion

When these adverbials are used at the beginning of a sentence the subject and auxiliary verb are inverted:
Never have I seen anything quite so breathtaking. The same happens with the verb *be*: *Not only is it one of the oldest cities, it is also one of the most beautiful.* In the present simple and past simple, use *do/does* or *did*: *Rarely do we visit that part of town.*

► Now do Exercise 2.

Unit 4 The future as seen from the past. Discourse markers in writing

Part 1: The future as seen from the past

You can use a range of structures and expressions to talk about the future as seen from the past. You can talk about:

- **events that took place** using *would*, or *was / were to*:
Who could have guessed that he'd become President one day? / Those were to become the happiest years of his life.
- **events that did not take place** using *was / were + perfect infinitive*: *They were to have gone to Mexico, but they had to change their plans at the last minute.*
- **future plans in the past** using *was / were going to, was / were planning to, had been hoping to, had been thinking of*:
He had been hoping to go to university, but he failed all his exams.
- **imminent events in the past** using *was / were due to / (just) about to, on the point / on the verge of*: *I was about to leave. / He was on the point / verge of giving up.*

► Now do Exercise 1.

Part 2: Discourse markers in writing

You use discourse markers to show how ideas relate to each other and to show our attitude to those ideas.

I love silly jokes, particularly those involving slapstick, such as pies in faces.

Here are some common uses with examples of common discourse markers:

- giving examples: *for example, for instance, e.g., say, such as, including*
- emphasising one example: *in particular, particularly*
- specifying who or what exactly you're talking about: *namely, viz, i.e.*
- clarifying what you want to say: *that is to say, in other*

words, strictly speaking, to put it another way

- adding information: *too, in addition, not to say, as well as, moreover*
- qualifying a statement: *or at any rate, or even, or at least*
- contrasting two things or ideas: *on the other hand, by contrast, however, nevertheless*
- emphasising a similarity: *likewise, similarly*
- introducing a question: *so, then* (when word position changes).

Notes

Too, when used as a discourse marker, is never used at the beginning of a sentence.

► Now do Exercise 2.

Unit 3 Exercises

1 Underline the most appropriate alternative, in your opinion.

- It is widely agreed / There is little evidence to show that younger people prefer to live in cities.
- There is no doubt / It would seem that there are better job opportunities in large cities.
- It is generally recognised that / There is some discussion about whether small communities offer better services to the elderly.
- Research suggests that / There is some doubt about whether most people would prefer to work from home rather than travel to an office every day.
- It has been reported that / It is not believed that most young graduates would be happy to move abroad to find work.
- There is no doubt / Some experts suggest that the future of work lies in the internet.

Compare your answers with a partner. Do you agree? Why? / Why not?

2 There is one mistake in each sentence. Find and correct the mistakes.

- Never before I had felt so happy.
- Not until had we reached the top did we realise how far we had come.
- Only once the show was over we could relax and enjoy ourselves.
- Only after some years I understood how important that experience had been for me.
- Not only did I want to do it again, did I want to do it as soon as possible!
- Barely had I arrived when happened the strangest thing.

Look at the sentences again. Choose two of them that relate to an experience you have had in your life. Tell your partner about the experience.

Unit 4 Exercises

1 Match the sentence endings (1–6) to the sentence beginnings (a–f).

- | | |
|--|---|
| a) I was about to go out | 1 would go on to be one of the best musical groups of all time. |
| b) We all knew that | 2 then we managed to persuade them. |
| c) He had planned to | 3 she decided to extend her stay. |
| d) She was to have left today but | 4 retire to the country. |
| e) They weren't going to go but | 5 he wouldn't be coming back. |
| f) They started out as a small town band but | 6 when the phone rang. |

Underline all the verb forms that refer to future as seen from the past. Rewrite the sentences using an alternative form.

2 Complete the sentences using the discourse markers in the box. You do not need to use all the discourse markers.

in addition including in particular not to say or at least so that is to say

- The course provides an introduction to Spanish culture, and _____ to flamenco and Spanish guitar music.
- The show was based on old-fashioned slapstick humour, _____, people falling over and throwing pies in each other's faces.
- The show went on for far too long, _____ that seemed to be the general feeling among the audience.
- I thought his jokes were very macho, _____ sexist, and generally in very bad taste.
- The story was weak and the animation was dated. _____ why was it such a success?
- There were a number of guest stars, _____ footballers and TV celebrities, who all drew a loud cheer from the audience.

Think of a show, live or on TV, that you have seen recently. Write a very brief review describing the show and your general opinion of it. Use some of the discourse markers in the grammar reference section.