Hedging Worksheet: Tend To, Appear To, It Could Be Argued

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NAME

DATE

Remember

Form	Example
Verbs: tend to, appear to, seem to, suggest, indicate	Older users tend to prefer email.
Modals and adverbs: may, could, possibly, arguably, apparently	This may explain the results.
Adjectives and nouns: likely, possible, a tendency, a possibility	It is likely that prices will rise.
Impersonal phrases: it could be argued that, there is evidence that	It could be argued that the policy failed.

Typical mistakes

× Learners often say	✓ Say instead
The results prove that the drug works. (only one study)	The results suggest that the drug may work.
Young people tend use their phones more.	Young people tend to use their phones more.
It can be argue that it failed.	It could be argued that it failed.

1. Rewrite

Rewrite each claim in a more cautious, academic style.

1. Coffee causes heart problems.

2. Students who work part-time get lower marks.

3. This policy failed completely.

4. Prices will rise next year.

5. Remote workers are more productive.

6. The data shows that the treatment works.

7. Everybody prefers online shopping now.

8. The decline was caused by the new tax.

2. Choose

Circle the more appropriate option for an academic essay.

1. The findings (prove / suggest) a link between sleep and memory.
2. Older drivers (tend to / always) drive more slowly.
3. It (is likely / is certain) that the trend will continue.
4. This (appears to be / is definitely) the main cause.
5. (Arguably / Obviously), this was the most important reform.
6. The results (may / will) not apply to other countries.
7. There is (a tendency / a fact) for companies to cut training first.
8. (It could be argued / Everyone knows) that the law is unfair.

3. Correct the mistakes

Each sentence has one mistake. Write it correctly.

1. Women tend live longer than men.

2. This seems be the best solution.

3. It could argued that the plan is too expensive.

4. The new rule is likely reduce accidents.

5. The study appears showing a clear pattern.

6. There is evidences that the method works.

Writing

Write a short academic paragraph (6 sentences) on the effects of working from home. Hedge every claim appropriately.

Speaking

- Make a cautious claim about how people in your country spend their free time.
- What do young people in your city tend to do at the weekend?
- Discuss a news story using ‘It appears that…’ and ‘It could be argued that…’
- What is likely to change in your profession in the next five years?

Answer key

1. Rewrite: 1 Excessive coffee consumption may be linked to heart problems. · 2 Students who work part-time tend to get lower marks. · 3 It could be argued that this policy was largely unsuccessful. · 4 Prices are likely to rise next year. · 5 There is some evidence that remote workers may be more productive. · 6 The data suggests that the treatment appears to be effective. · 7 Many consumers seem to prefer online shopping now. · 8 The decline was possibly / partly caused by the new tax.

2. Choose: 1 suggest · 2 tend to · 3 is likely · 4 appears to be · 5 Arguably · 6 may · 7 a tendency · 8 It could be argued

3. Correct the mistakes: 1 Women tend to live longer than men. · 2 This seems to be the best solution. · 3 It could be argued that the plan is too expensive. · 4 The new rule is likely to reduce accidents. · 5 The study appears to show a clear pattern. · 6 There is evidence that the method works.

Writing, model answer: The shift to remote work appears to have had mixed effects on employees. There is some evidence that many workers feel more productive at home. However, younger employees tend to report higher levels of isolation. It could be argued that this is partly due to fewer opportunities for informal learning. Companies are likely to adopt hybrid models in the long term. Further research may be needed to measure the effects on career progression.