



Intensity of Uncertainty in Texts

Many words and phrases act like markers in a text to indicate to readers that the author is less than certain about what is being said. Collectively, these words and phrases that indicate uncertainty are called **uncertainty qualifiers**. These qualifiers help the reader to identify areas in the text where the author may be uncertain. Different qualifiers also indicate the degree of uncertainty that the author has in what they are saying. For example, "it probably will happen" is more certain than "it may happen."

DIRECTIONS: Identify uncertainty qualifiers in the text. Consider the degree of each instance of uncertainty by thinking of how the author might have changed their words to indicate more uncertainty or less uncertainty.

How could they have expressed less certainty?	What does the author say?	How could they have expressed more certainty?