



# Degrees of Uncertainty

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 markers in the text help readers to identify where the author is uncertain, or how much confidence the author has in what they are saying.

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the assigned text. How confident are you in the accuracy of the information the author presents? Use the scale below to assign a score to the text.

100	certain
85-99	almost certain, believe, evident, little doubt
60-84	fairly certain, likely, should be, appear to be
40-59	have chances
15-39	probably not, fairly uncertain, is not expected
1-14	not believe, doubtful, not evident

1. What kinds of uncertainty qualifiers does the author use?

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2. How many uncertainty qualifiers does the author use?

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3. What is your degree of confidence in this text? \_\_\_\_\_