



Uncertainty Qualifiers

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**. There are many categories of uncertainty qualifiers. The table below shows some of these categories and some examples of them.

verbal phrases	as likely as, chances are, close to certain, likely, few, high probability, it could be, it seems, quite possible
expression of uncertainty with quantification	all, most, many, some, etc.
modal verbs	can, may, should
adverbs	roughly, somewhat, mostly, essentially, especially, exceptionally, often, almost, practically, actually, really
speculation verbs	suggest, suppose, suspect, presume
nouns	speculation, doubt, proposals
expressions	raise the question of, to the best of our knowledge, as far as I know

DIRECTIONS: Read the assigned text. How many uncertainty qualifiers can you find? Write them on the lines below.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____