Why English speakers often use less certain language

If you are learning English, you may have noticed that native speakers often use words like *"might," "tend to," "usually,"* or *"some."* These words show less certainty or suggest that something is not always true. For example, instead of saying, *"Happy people live longer,"* a native speaker might say, *"Happy people **tend to** live longer."*

But why is this? Why don't English speakers just say things clearly and directly?

1.
English speakers often want to avoid sounding too direct or too strong, especially when talking about other people's experiences or feelings. Using less certain language sounds more polite and respectful. For example:

- *"It seems that you're upset,"* is softer than *"You are upset."*

2.

Many statements are true in general, but not in every situation. Saying *"Most people like chocolate"* is more accurate than saying *"Everyone likes chocolate."* English speakers often try to be careful not to say something that could be proven wrong.

3.

When someone says, *"I'd suggest that this is a good idea,"* they are giving their opinion, not a fact. Using phrases like *"I think," "It might be,"* or *"It's possible"* helps to show that they are not trying to say something is 100% true.

4.
In academic writing or formal speaking, it's important not to sound too certain unless there is strong evidence. That's why researchers often write:

- *"The study suggests…"* instead of *"The study proves…"*

This shows that they are being careful and scientific in their claims.

   A. To be more academic or professional
   B. Because things are not always 100% true
   C. To show opinion, not fact
   D. To sound polite and careful