

R&W1 – UNIT 4 - : Hedging in Scientific Writing

Instructions:

Read the following paragraphs and choose the best answer for each question.
Focus on how the author uses hedging to express uncertainty or caution.

Paragraph 1

Chimpanzees have been observed using leaves to collect water, which could suggest some awareness of tools. Some scientists say this behavior might be a result of imitation rather than understanding. As far as I'm concerned, this shows potential early cognitive development, though not all experts would agree.

1. Which of the following is an example of hedging in the paragraph?

- A. Chimpanzees use leaves to collect water.
- B. This shows cognitive development.
- C. Might be a result of imitation.
- D. Chimpanzees have been observed.

2. Why does the author use the phrase "As far as I'm concerned"?

- A. To explain a scientific fact
- B. To express a personal and possibly uncertain opinion
- C. To quote an expert
- D. To reject other points of view

Paragraph 2

Dolphins may communicate using sound patterns, though it is not entirely clear if these sounds carry complex meaning. To my knowledge, there is no full agreement among marine biologists. Some experiments suggest that dolphins recognize themselves in mirrors, which might indicate self-awareness.

3. What is the purpose of using the word "may" in this paragraph?

- A. To show absolute certainty
- B. To reject a theory
- C. To indicate that the idea is possible but not proven
- D. To express emotion

4. Which of the following is NOT hedging language?

- A. To my knowledge
- B. Might indicate self-awareness
- C. Suggest
- D. Dolphins recognize themselves in mirrors