UNIT 4. HEDGING LANGUAGE TO AVOID GENERALIZATION

USING SYNONYMS TO AVOID REPETITION

Task 1. Rewrite the sentences using hedging language.

1. Despite a number of minor problems, the scheme was very successful.

If there were problems, was it completely successful?

Answer:

2. Coral reefs are seriously affected by rises in sea temperature.

I don't think the research has 100% proven this link yet.

Answer:

3. Solar power offers a solution to producing clean, cheap energy in developing countries.

Is it certain to work in all contexts? Isn't it quite expensive to set up?

Answer:

4. The study shows that bilingual children have better memory skills than children who only speak one language.

This is only one study – can we say that it clearly proves the link? Is it true for all children?

Answer:

Task 2. Rewrite each sentence by incorporating the hedging language in brackets to soften the claims. You may need to change other words too and also the form of the words in the brackets.

1. When the King of Thailand dies, the people of Thailand will be deeply saddened. **(many, likely)**

2. If the dinosaurs were still roaming the Earth today, the human race would not exist. **(extremely unlikely)**

3. Working through this set of activities will enhance your ability to use hedging in your academic writing. **(should)**

4. Taking a lot of vitamin C will help you overcome a bad cold. **(may)**

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5. Teachers in Hong Kong simply teach the way they were once taught - by rote. **(a lot of, tend)**

Task 3. Replace the bold words by a synonym, so as to avoid repetition.

1. Success requires hard work. Yet **hard work** by itself is insufficient.

2. A car was observed leaving the scene of the crime. **The car** was chased by a member of the public.

3. My manager is kind. My **manager** let me turn in my project late.

4. Bangalore has many broad, **broad** streets.

5. We need to approach this problem in a completely different way. Unless we **approach** it in a more careful way, we will continue to fail to find a solution.

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