

Task: Rate the level of certainty that the author uses to describe a finding.

Let's go over some examples:

FINDING: Now there is clear evidence that sunscreen prevents skin damage.

→ The description of the finding is very **certain**. No hedges or other indicators of uncertainty.

How do you rate the level of certainty the author uses to describe the finding?

Uncertain

Somewhat uncertain

Neither certain nor uncertain

Somewhat certain

Certain

Compared to that, this one is **slightly less certain**:

FINDING: New study shows that sunscreen can prevent skin damage.

→ The description of the finding is pretty **certain**. The use of *can* indicates that the finding is limited in some way, but overall the finding is presented to be mostly certain.

How do you rate the level of certainty the author uses to describe the finding?

Uncertain

Somewhat uncertain

Neither certain nor uncertain

Somewhat certain

Certain

Let's look at some examples that express **uncertainty**:

FINDING: New study suggests that sunscreen could prevent skin damage.

→ The finding is described to be pretty **uncertain**. The use of *could* and *suggests* are

indicators that the findings are **preliminary** or very **limited** with regards to how impactful they may be.

How do you rate the level of certainty the author uses to describe the finding?

Uncertain

Somewhat uncertain

Neither certain nor uncertain

Somewhat certain

Certain

Let's go all the way to an **uncertain finding**:

FINDING: Study presents potential indicators that sunscreen might have positive effects in preventing skin damage.

→ The finding is described to be **very uncertain**. It is stated that the results are indicators instead of definite explanation. The use of the word *might* emphasizes the uncertainty of the finding.

How do you rate the level of certainty the author uses to describe the finding?

Uncertain

Somewhat uncertain

Neither certain nor uncertain

Somewhat certain

Certain

Move backward

Move forward