

Hedging/Cautious Writing

Use this worksheet to practice what is discussed in

- **Information Sheet 8: Hedging/Cautious Writing**

Task 1

Underline all hedging expressions in the text below.

These taxa range in date from 5.0 to 1.0 Ma, indicating that during this period there was an adaptive radiation of australopithecines (Howell 1978; White, Kember & Johanson 1983; Walker et al. 1986, Susman et al. 1985). The earliest members of the genus *Homo* were probably part of that radiation. *Homo* first appeared at over 2.0 Ma. While this is generally referred to as *Homo habilis*, it is becoming increasingly clear that there were probably a number of species or sub-species during the first phase of hominine evolution (Wood 1985; Lieberman 1986). *H. erectus*, appearing at about 1.6Ma (Brown et al. 1985) would have been part of that radiation. *H. erectus* is frequently considered to be the sole representative of hominids during the bulk of the lower and the earlier parts of the Middle Pleistocene. The species currently recognized within this genus include an early and primitive form showing anatomical similarities to the African apes and possessing a small brain and possibly retaining considerable arboreal locomotor behaviour. This specifically E African form is often allied to a slightly later S African taxon, *A. africanus*.

(Adapted from: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003598X00072938>, Foley, R. (1987). Hominid species and stone-tool assemblages: how are they related? *Antiquity*)

Task 2

Rewrite the five sentences below in a more hedged manner by using words or phrases from the box below or those from Information Sheet 8.

often	almost always	typically	almost	may
	can	potential/potentially	likely	

1. The winter months in northern Europe are always accompanied by a drop in temperatures.
2. Heavy rainfall, heatwaves, and lightning disrupt electricity transmission and distribution networks and cause power outages.
3. Most people agree that the global warming of the last 50 years is caused by human activities.



4. Lake sediments are the most useful archives for past climate change as they span long periods and give high temporal resolution.
5. Both natural climate change and human-influenced environmental changes are recorded in Holocene sediments of Yunnan.

Answers

Task 1

These taxa range in date from 5.0 to 1.0 Ma, indicating that during this period there was an adaptive radiation of australopithecines (Howell 1978; White, Kembel & Johanson 1983; Walker et al. 1986, Susman et al. 1985). The earliest members of the genus Homo were probably part of that radiation. Homo first appeared at over 2.0 Ma. While this is generally referred to as Homo habilis, it is becoming increasingly clear that there were probably a number of species or sub-species during the first phase of hominine evolution (Wood 1985; Lieberman 1986). H. erectus, appearing at about 1.6Ma (Brown et al. 1985) would have been part of that radiation. H. erectus is frequently considered to be the sole representative of hominids during the bulk of the lower and the earlier parts of the Middle Pleistocene. The species currently recognized within this genus include an early and primitive form showing anatomical similarities to the African apes, and possessing a small brain and possibly retaining considerable arboreal locomotor behaviour. This specifically E African form is often allied to a slightly later S African taxon, A. africanus.

Task 2

There are a variety of answers depending on where you stand on an issue.

1. The winter months in northern Europe are usually/typically accompanied by a drop in temperatures.
2. Heavy rainfall, heatwaves, and lightning can disrupt/potentially disrupt electricity transmission and distribution networks and may cause power outages.
3. There is general consensus/It is generally agreed that the global warming of the last 50 years is caused by human activities.
4. Lake sediments are some of the most useful archives for past climate change as they often/almost always span long periods and can give high temporal resolution.
5. Both natural climate change and human-influenced environmental changes are likely to be recorded in Holocene sediments of Yunnan.