

MODALITY WORDS

The strength of a statement may be varied by using words from these two different types of modality.

| High Modality | | | Low Modality | | |
|---------------|------------|------------|--------------|-----------------|--------|
| must | definitely | absolutely | possibly | appears | seems |
| surely | always | | could | would appear to | maybe |
| certainty | never | | might | possibility | rarely |

1 Circle the low modality words in the following sentences.

- It appears to be broken.
- I could ask and see what they say.
- I might be able to get two free tickets.
- It is a possibility that we will run out of fossil fuels.
- They may have entered through the back gate.



Write the high modality words that are found in the following sentences.



- It is definitely broken.
- You must ask and see what they say.
- I never get two free tickets.
- We will certainly run out of fossil fuels.
- They always enter through the back gate.

Text Type: Discussion

SHOULD SCHOOL UNIFORMS BE BANNED?

If uniforms were banned we could wear our own clothes to school. Casual clothes would express our personality and individuality. It could also be fun to change your school clothing when you wished. However, constantly buying new clothes might prove to be a financial burden for many families. Current fashion trends are always expensive.

In some cases uniforms could also prove to be expensive. But, what would be more expensive; constantly buying new outfits to wear to school, or buying one or two uniforms that could possibly last years?

Uniforms suggest that everybody is equal. While wearing a school uniform nobody appears to be better or more stylish than anybody else. Wearing some types of casual clothes could cause exclusion or bullying.

Wearing uniforms could also provide safety for the students. Intruders would certainly be spotted more easily by their lack of uniform.

In my opinion, school uniforms should definitely not be banned!



5 Write whether each excerpt uses low or high modality.

- If uniforms were banned we could wear our own clothes to school.
- Casual clothes would express our personality and individuality.
- Current fashion trends are always expensive.
- Buying new clothes might prove to be a financial burden.
- In some cases uniforms could also prove to be expensive.
- Uniforms suggest that everybody is equal.
- Wearing some types of casual clothes could cause exclusion or bullying.
- Intruders would certainly be spotted more easily...
- In my opinion, school uniforms should definitely not be banned!

3 Rewrite the following sentences changing each word in bold to a low modality word from the box. This will change the strength of the whole sentence.

a I **always** get free tickets.

b I **will definitely** make the team.

c I **must** attend the charity ball.



6 Read the following scenarios and write a response using high modality.

E.g. must, always.

a You are encouraging your friends to act on global warming. You want everyone to do everything they can to help reduce global warming.

We _____

b Angus just got elected school captain. He has to pledge his commitment to looking after his peers.

I will _____

Think of an item that you would really like. Use high modality words to persuade your parents into buying that item.



