

MODAL VERBS: PREDICTIONS



Researchers tend to predict results when conducting studies. Expected results are generally presented in the introduction and abstract of a research report.



DEGREES OF CERTAINTY

Considering that expected results are generally hard to predict, writers use modal verbs to express certainty.



WILL AND SHOULD (STRONG PREDICTION)

Results will contribute to enrich the existing literature on this issue

WOULD (HIGH PROBABILITY)

This study would help researchers learn more about the human brain.

MAY AND MIGHT (LESS PROBABLE)

Evidence might indicate that learners are more comfortable with traditional lectures.