

## 3.4 Caution

### 2 The language of caution

(Others are possible)

Modals:                    might/ may/ could/ should

Adverbs:                often/ usually/ frequently/ generally/ commonly/ mainly/  
apparently

Verb/phrase:            seems to/ appears to/ in general/ by and large/ it  
appears/ it seems

### 3 Using modifiers

- (a)            The company's efforts to save energy were quite/fairly successful.
- (b)            The survey was (a fairly/quite a) comprehensive study of student opinion.
- (c)            His second book had a rather hostile reception.
- (d)            The first year students were quite fascinated by her lectures.
- (e)            The latest type of arthritis drug is rather expensive.

### 4 Practice A

(Example answers)

- (a)            Private companies are often more efficient than state-owned businesses.
- (b)            Exploring space seems to be a waste of valuable resources.
- (c)            Older students may perform better at university than younger ones.

- (d) Word-of-mouth is commonly the best kind of advertising.
- (e) English pronunciation can be confusing.
- (f) Some cancers may be caused by psychological factors.
- (g) It appears that global warming will cause the sea level to rise.
- (h) Most shopping may done on the internet in ten years' time.

## 6 Practice B

(Example answer)

A team of American scientists **may** have found a way to reverse the ageing process. They fed diet supplements, **usually** found in health food shops, to elderly rats, which were then tested for memory and stamina. The animals **tended to** display more active behaviour after taking the supplements, and their memory **generally** improved. In addition, their appearance became **rather** more youthful and their appetite **tended to** increase. The researchers **believe** that this experiment is **quite** a clear indication of how the problems of old age **may** be overcome. They **claim** that in a few years' time **many people may** be able to look forward to a **fairly** long and active retirement.