

Hedges in Spoken Language:

I. What is the purpose of Hedging?

1. Express fuzziness, (the following word is not the exact or best word)
2. Express uncertainty (lack of/decreased commitment to a an idea)
3. Softening an opinion (modifies the statement)
4. Lessening a criticism or request
5. Preceding difficult vocabulary
6. Preceding metaphors
7. Filled pauses

II. Examples of Hedging

1. It **seems to me** like in this paragraph there are lots of totally different things going on.
2. **It seems to me** this brings up a lot of issues.
3. And **I guess** what the committee keeps pushing, pushing back on is, **well** it's still possible to provide some information.
4. You might just **want to, like, again sort of** draw out some conclusions a little bit
5. **It seems to me perhaps** you might, want to make it clearer.
6. **Maybe it's a good idea,** to tell, us and, actually the reader, right off the bat what you mean by ...
7. **I sort of** want to see the paragraph or the page, that makes it very clear why...