



Name _____

Date _____

VOCABULARY - LESSON 19 CERTAINTY AND UNCERTAINTY WORD LIST

Have you ever made a decision and then felt unsure about whether it was the best choice? The words in this lesson deal with certainty and uncertainty. Since degrees of certainty are a large part of everyday life, these words will help you to better describe many common situations.

Vocabulary Word & Meaning	Related Word(s)	Example
1. approximate (adjective) almost exact or correct - (verb) to come close to; to be nearly the same as	approximation (noun)	The approximate size of my bedroom is ten feet by twelve feet. The sugar substitute approximated the taste of real sugar. The statue was barely an approximation of the queen's beauty.
2. assumption (noun) something that is accepted as true without proof; the act of taking on or taking over	assume (verb)	The assumption that toads cause warts is false. A grand ceremony marked the assumption of power by the new king. I assume you will wear a coat in this cold weather.
3. certify (verb) to guarantee or confirm to be true, accurate, or genuine - to issue a license or certificate indicating that certain standards have been met	certification (noun)	The building inspector certified that the apartment met city requirements. The state board of education certifies teachers. The certification test for accountants involves math.
4. contend (verb) to struggle against difficulties - to compete - to claim	contention (noun) contentious (adjective) contender (noun)	Every day, the ill patient must contend with his disease. The two teams contended for the debate championship. The expert's contention was that the work of art is not by Picasso. Three contenders competed for the prize.

<p>5. hypothesis (noun) a theory; an educated guess that can be tested by further investigation</p>	<p>hypothesize (verb)</p>	<p>The results of the experiments supported the scientist's hypothesis.</p> <p>Physicists hypothesized that there were undiscovered particles within atoms.</p>
<p>6. illusion (noun) an image that is not real - an idea that is mistaken or false</p>	<p>illusory (adjective)</p>	<p>Is that puddle in the road ahead real, or is it just an illusion?</p> <p>The karate student soon got over the illusion that he could defeat his teacher in a contest.</p> <p>Although we remain hopeful, world peace has so far proved illusory.</p>
<p>7. inevitable (adjective) impossible to avoid or prevent</p>	<p>inevitability (noun)</p>	<p>Growing older is inevitable.</p> <p>Disagreement between people is an inevitability.</p>
<p>8. inquire (verb) to ask - request information</p>	<p>inquiry (noun)</p>	<p>We called the hotel to inquire about the rates.</p> <p>The personnel office made inquiries about his recent job performance.</p>
<p>9. presume (verb) to take for granted as being true without having proof</p>	<p>presumption (noun)</p>	<p>We presumed there would be no word problems on the math test, but we were mistaken.</p> <p>In U. S. trials, there is a presumption of innocence until guilt is proven.</p>
<p>10. vague (adjective) not specific - not clear - lacking definite form</p>	<p>vagueness (noun)</p>	<p>Because of Cal's vague directions, we got lost.</p> <p>I saw the vague shadow of an animal through the fog.</p> <p>Because of the vagueness of the directions, we got lost.</p>