

In an essay, when you are trying to persuade your reader to agree with you, you must use strong words.

1. Highlight the sentence below which is more likely to persuade you to change the rules of a game that you are playing.

If we don't change the rules someone might get injured.
If we don't change the rules someone will certainly get injured.

The second sentence is much stronger than the first one because *might* has been replaced with *certainly*. The stronger word has a more persuasive effect. These shades of meaning are referred to as *modality*. It shows how intense or how definite you are about your subject.

2. Draw a circle around the strongest word in each set of brackets.

- i. You must clean your room [soon, now, immediately]. It is [dirty, filthy, untidy].
- ii. The teacher will be [furious, disappointed, angry] if we are late to class.
- iii. There is a nasty [smell, stench, odour] coming from the dirty rubbish bin.
- iv. After the football match I was [exhausted, tired, drowsy]. Our soccer team is [strong, powerful, invincible].
- v. The angry coach was [looking, glaring, staring] at me after I missed the goal.
- vi. When I was being chased by the bull I was [scared, terrified, frightened].
- vii. The clowns at the circus were [amusing, funny, hilarious].
- viii. The diamond necklace is [priceless, valuable, expensive].
- ix. In the spelling test my friend [begged, asked, requested] me to help her.
- x. The film that I saw yesterday was [interesting, captivating, fascinating].
- xi. If you can't be quiet I will [ask, request, insist] that you leave the room immediately.
- xii. In the Grand Final the Wolves were [beaten, annihilated, defeated] by the Tigers.