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.