

3.4

USE OF ENGLISH

Sentence modifiers

I can use modifiers to signal attitude, soften a statement or add emphasis.

1 SPEAKING Discuss the questions.

- 1 Do you ever use paper maps? If not, why?
- 2 Can you imagine a situation in which a mapping mobile app is not the best solution?

2 Read the article and answer the questions in your notebook.

- 1 Do we read more efficiently on screen or on paper? Why?
- 2 What has the digital age done to the length of reading texts?
- 3 What is the advantage of Google Maps over traditional paper ones?
- 4 How do we read digital texts? Why?

3 SPEAKING Do you agree with the article? Why?/Why not?

4 Look at the modifiers in blue in the article. Do they modify words or whole phrases?

5 Read the LANGUAGE FOCUS. In your notebook, write a modifier in blue from the article for each gap.

LANGUAGE FOCUS

Sentence modifiers

Indicating attitude

- to express surprise: ¹ *strikingly*, *surprisingly*
- to indicate interest: ² *?*, *interestingly*
- to say sth is obvious: *of course*, ³ *?*, ⁴ *?*
- to show a positive attitude: *I'm happy to say*, *happily*
- to show a negative attitude: *sadly*, *regrettably*

Softening a message

probably, *likely*, ⁵ *?*, ⁶ *?*, ⁷ *?*, ⁸ *?*

Note: In conversation, *sort of*, *in a way* and *maybe* are common.

Adding emphasis

surely, *clearly*, ⁹ *?*, ¹⁰ *?*

Note: In conversation, *actually*, *definitely* and *as a matter of fact* are all common.

READING ON SCREEN

Recent studies show that, *strikingly*, we read more slowly and comprehend less on screen than we do when we read on paper. *In fact*, digital reading material may prevent readers from appreciating long texts in a satisfying way. This, *presumably*, is also to do with the fact that so much information these days comes in tiny bite-size pieces.

The study shows that reading a physical book allows the reader to assimilate an extensive amount of information because you can go back and forth between pages easily. This may, *to some extent*, explain why people still print out documents when they could *potentially* just read it all on screen. *Obviously*, the results of the study don't apply to all digital text types. Google Maps, for example, allows you to zoom in and zoom out to get a bigger picture of where you are and is *arguably* easier to use than its paper equivalent.

Curiously, another difference lies in the direction in which we read. With digital texts, we often read in a non-linear fashion because we are led in different directions by links embedded within a text – *plainly*, this makes us more easily distracted. *Indeed*, we may not finish what we intended to read but discover something totally unexpected instead.

6 In pairs, take turns to read out the sentences choosing the most likely modifier based on the context of the sentence.

- 1 *Curiously* / *Sadly*, co-founder of Microsoft Bill Gates' house was designed using an Apple computer.
- 2 After initial difficulties, *happily* / *regrettably* Anna was able to recover all her data from the faulty hard drive.
- 3 *Obviously* / *Surprisingly*, the latest model of the phone is twice as powerful but costs little more than the old version.
- 4 While Karen is not totally to blame, *to some extent* / *clearly* the fault is hers as she forgot to log out of the system.
- 5 *Of course* / *Potentially*, no one could have predicted just how damaging this computer virus would go on to be.
- 6 With so much competition in the market, *plainly* / *likely* not every fitness app can be a commercial success.

7 SPEAKING Discuss one of the statements below.

- 1 Despite the impact of communication technology, surely today's teenagers can't be that different from past generations, can they?
- 2 Though we can't be 100 percent sure, presumably e-readers will continue to get cheaper as competition between manufacturers increases.

Use of English pages 123–124

