

Discussions & Debates - some phrases

Stating and/or reporting an opinion:

- In my opinion ...
- The way I see it ...
- If you want my honest opinion
- According to Lisa ...
- As far as I'm concerned ...
- If you ask me ...
- It seems to me that ...
- The point is ...
- As I see it ...
- If it were up to me ...
- I'm convinced (positive/certain) that ...
- I'd just like to say that
- Let me put it like this,

Asking for an opinion:

- What's your take on this?
- What are your thoughts on (all of) this?
- How do you feel about that?
- Do you have anything to add?
- What do you think?
- Do you agree?
- Wouldn't you say that?
- Isn't it true that?

Expressing agreement:

- I agree with you 100 percent.
- I couldn't agree (with X) more.
- That's so true.
- You're (absolutely) right.
- Absolutely. / Exactly.
- That's exactly how I feel.
- I'm afraid I (have to) agree with James.
- I have to side with X on this one.
- Me, too. / Me neither.
- (weak) I suppose so. / I guess so.
- You have a point there.
- I was just going to say that.
- That's just what I was thinking.
- I see what you mean.
- I agree entirely.
- I don't have a problem with that.
- Well, If you say so. (grudgingly ...)

Expressing various degrees of disagreement:

- I don't think so.
- (Well,) I'm afraid I can't agree there.
- I'm not sure I can agree (with X) there.
- (strong) I totally disagree.
- I beg to differ.
- Not necessarily.
- That's not always true / the case.
- Well, I'm not so sure about that.
- Well, you (may) have a point there, but ...
- Perhaps, but don't you think that ...
- I (can) see what you mean, but ...
- Well, up to a point, but
- The problem with that is

Interruptions:

- Can I add something here?
- Is it okay if I jump in for a second?
- If I might add something ...
- Sorry to interrupt, but ...

Moving on:

- Let's just move on, shall we?
- Let's drop it, shall we? (coll)
- I think we're going to have to agree to differ.

Asking someone to repeat, explain or clarify:

- I don't (quite/really) understand what you mean.
- Would you explain that, please?
- I didn't (really) understand your point.
- Could you give (us) an example?
- What (exactly) do you mean by ...?
- Can/Could you run that by me again?

Persuading someone:

- You must admit that ...
- Have you considered ...?
- Do you really believe that ...?
- Don't you think that ...?
- Don't/Wouldn't you agree that ...?
- Wouldn't you say that the reverse is also true?
- Don't you think it would be better to ...?

Giving reasons and offering explanations:

- To start with, ...
- The reason why ...
- Many people think ...
- When you consider that ...

Some popular modern business clichés:

- I can see where you're coming from.
- I can't (quite) get my head round this.
- Can you run that past me once more?
- We have to start thinking outside the box.
- Well, the bottom line is
- It's not (exactly) rocket science.

Useful in all discussions:

- not only but also
- neither nor
- both and
- on the one hand on the other (hand)
- however, nevertheless

NOTES