

EXPRESSING OPINION, AGREEMENT

AND DISAGREEMENT

Sooner or later you will get the urge to agree or disagree with something that is being said in English. Offering an opinion can be difficult when it is not in your first language. You may know exactly what you want to say in your native tongue, but are unsure of how to express your views in English. You may also worry that your words will not come out properly or that you might hurt someone's feelings by being too forward. Although it is easier to sit back and say nothing at all, you will become bored or frustrated if all you can do is nod your head yes or shake your head no, especially if you have a strong opinion about something. The best thing to do is to learn and practice some common expressions that are used in formal discussions and debates. For example, there is a difference between agreeing strongly or only slightly.

Asking for opinion:

- What's your idea?
- How do you feel about that?
- What do you think?

- Do you have anything to say about this?
- What are your thoughts on all of this?
- Do you agree? -Wouldn't you say?

Expressing opinion:

- In my opinion...
- The way I see it...
- If you want my honest opinion....
- As far as I'm concerned...
- If you ask me...
- Personally, I think.... -I believe.... -I feel....
- According to me....
- I hold the view that....
- Some people say that....
- Generally it is thought that....

- I'm of the opinion that....
- It seems to me that....
- I'd like to point out that....
- I suppose.... -I guess....
- My impression is that....
- What I mean is....
- From my point of view....
- From my perspective....
- Well, it is considered that....
- It is generally accepted that....

Expressing agreement:

- I agree.... -I totally agree....
- Absolutely....
- I see what you are getting at....
- I'd go along with that view to a point...
- I'd go along with that....

- I couldn't agree more....
- I see your point....
- I see exactly what you mean....
- Sure, that's one way of looking at it....
- I have to side with you on this one....

- I second that....
- Actually, I think you're right....
- Well, I agree with you here....
- Ok, that's convincing....
- That's exactly how I feel
- You're right, that's a good point....
- That's true....
- You have my full agreement....
- I think so too....
- You took the words right out of my mouth...

Expressing disagreement:

- I see your point, but....
- You could say that, however....
- Well, I see things rather differently....
- I'm not sure I go along with that view....
- I agree up to a point, but....
- I still have my doubts....
- Well, I don't quite agree with you....
- Not necessarily....
- There is no way I could agree with that....
- We don't seem to be in complete agreement....
- I see what you are getting at, but....
- I completely disagree....
- Umm, I'm not sure about that....
- I don't really agree with that idea....
- I wouldn't quite put it that way myself....
- That's out of question....
- I find that very difficult to accept....
- That's not always true....
- I don't think so....
- We don't seem to agree here....

Expressing interruption:

- Sorry to interrupt, but....
- Is it ok if I jump in for a moment....
- Excuse me for a second, but....
- May I say something here....
- Before you move on, I'd like to say something....
- (after accidentally interrupting someone) Sorry, go ahead. OR Sorry, you were saying...
- (after being interrupted) Sorry, but can you let me finish....
- (after being interrupted) Let me finish what I have to say first....
- Wait a minute....
- Do you mind if I add something....
- I don't mean to intrude, but....
- Sorry to cut you off, but....
- Just a moment, I like to add something here....

Exercise: read the sentences below carefully then put a tick in the right columns.

SENTENCES	ASKING FOR AN OPINION	EXPRESSING OPINION	EXPRESSING AGREEMENT	EXPRESSING DISAGREEMENT	EXPRESSING INTERRUPTION
1.How do you feel about your new job?					
2.It seems to me that, money is the root of all evil.					
3.I don't really agree with that point, let's discuss some other alternatives.					
4.Do you think that our education system needs to be reformed?					
5.This is what Mr. Brown intends to do, what do you think about it?					
6.I don't believe you actually want me to walk 10 km to that shop.					
7.Absolutely, university students need to have critical thinking skills.					
8.Sorry to cut you off, could you please repeat what you have just said?					
9.You're right the transport system needs to be improved.					
10.Before you go on, I'd like to ask you a question.					

Exercise correction:

ASKING FOR AN OPINION	EXPRESSING OPINION	EXPRESSING AGREEMENT	EXPRESSING DISAGREEMENT	EXPRESSING INTERRUPTION
1	2	7 9	3 6	8 10