

EXPRESSING AGREEMENT & DISAGREEMENT

By: Nyoman Putra Antara

Learning about language and how to express yourself successfully is a useful life skill. At every moment of our daily life, we may have to give our opinion and deal with the others' opinion. Expressing opinion, agreeing and disagreeing with others' opinion is an important part of speaking English.

Before we go further in the discussion about agreement and disagreement, let's see this example first:



By seeing that picture, we can imagine that there are two kind of conversation, first is agreement in each other's opinion, second is disagreement in each other's opinion.

Agreement:

A: I think that mothers work harder than fathers!

B: **Me too!**

A: Father's Day should be abolished!

B: **I agree!**

Disagreement

A: I think mothers work harder than fathers!

B: **Really? Not me.** I think they both work equally hard.

A: Father's Day should be abolished!

B: **I disagree.** I think both of them deserve a day to be honored by their family.

From those examples, we can infer that in expressing agreement and disagreement, we can use certain phrases. What are those phrases?

Before we go to the list of the phrases, let's take a look on the definition of agreement and disagreement first.

I. DEFINITION

A. Agreement

An agreement is made when two parties agree to something. So, for example, a mother might make an agreement with her son not to kiss him in public because, after kindergarten, well, that's just not cool.

If people's opinions are in accord, or match one another, then they are in agreement. If a teacher assigns a ten-page paper due the next day, the students would be in agreement that the assignment was unfair. A written or verbal contract can also be called an agreement. An agreement to deliver an article a month for a publication could not be broken simply because you have writer's block.

These are some definitions of agreement:

1. harmony of people's opinions, actions, or characters

“the two parties were in agreement”

Synonyms : accord

Antonyms : disagreement, dissension, dissonance

a conflict of people's opinions or actions or characters

Types : community, community of interests (agreement as to goals)

concurrence, meeting of minds (a state of cooperation)

consensus (agreement in the judgment or opinion reached by a group as a whole)

sense of the meeting (general agreement reached by an assembled group)

unanimity (everyone being of one mind)

unison (corresponding exactly)

social contract (an implicit agreement among people that results in the organization of society; individual surrenders liberty in return for protection)

Type of : concord, concordance, harmony (a harmonious state of things in general and of their properties/as of colors and sounds; congruity of parts with one another and with the whole)

2. compatibility of observations

“there was no agreement between theory and measurement”

Synonyms : correspondence

Types : conformance, conformity (correspondence in form or appearance)

justness, nicety, rightness (conformity with some esthetic standard of correctness or propriety)

Normality (conformity with the norm)

Type of : compatibility (capability of existing or performing in harmonious or congenial combination)

3. the verbal act of agreeing

Antonyms : disagreement (the speech act of disagreeing or arguing or disputing)

Type of : speech act (the use of language to perform some act)

4. the statement (oral or written) of an exchange of promises

“they had an agreement that they would not interfere in each other's business”

Synonyms : understanding

Type of : statement (a message that is stated or declared; a communication ,oral or written, setting forth particulars or facts etc)

5. the thing arranged or agreed to

Synonyms : arrangement

Types : collusion (secret agreement)

prearrangement (something arranged in advance)

Reservation (something reserved in advance (as a hotel accommodation or a seat on a plane etc.)

Type of : planning, preparation, provision (the cognitive process of thinking about what you will do in the event of something happening)

6. in grammar, the correspondence between two words

Synonyms : concord

Type of: grammatical relation (a linguistic relation established by grammar)

B. Disagreement

A disagreement is a type of conflict, either between people or ideas. No it's not! Yes it is! It's an argument. If your opinion contradicts the facts, there's a disagreement.

When ideas conflict, there's disagreement. If you want to go to an action movie, but your friend wants to go to a romantic comedy, that's a disagreement. Statements, opinions, and claims can also disagree. If I say my grandmother was a sweet woman, and you say she was a horrible person, that's disagreement. If the IRS finds a disagreement between your taxes and your real income, you could be in trouble.

These are some definitions of disagreement:

1. a conflict of people's opinions or actions or characters

Synonyms : dissension, dissonance

Antonyms : accord, agreement (harmony of people's opinions or actions or characters)

Types : disunity (lack of unity/usually resulting from dissension)
divide (a serious disagreement between two groups of people /typically producing tension or hostility)

Type of : conflict (a state of opposition between persons or ideas or interests)

2. a difference between conflicting facts or claims or opinions

Synonyms : discrepancy, divergence, variance

Types : allowance, leeway, margin, tolerance (a permissible difference; allowing some freedom to move within limits)

Type of : difference (the quality of being unlike or dissimilar)

3. the speech act of disagreeing or arguing or disputing

Antonyms : agreement (the verbal act of agreeing)

Type of : speech act (the use of language to perform some act)

II. EXPRESSION

We use different patterns to agree or disagree depending on how the opinion statement begins.

If the opinion statement begins with “I,” then use the chart below to help you answer.

Person #1 – Agrees Me too! I do too! I can too! I will too! I did too! I would too!	Person #2 – Disagrees Not me! I don’t! I disagree! I wouldn’t. Really?
Person #1 – Disagrees Not me! I disagree! Really?	Person #2 – ALSO Disagrees Me neither! I don’t either! I can’t either! I won’t either! I didn’t either! I wouldn’t either!

Now let’s look at an opinion that doesn’t begin with “I.”

Person #1 – Agrees I agree. You’re right. Absolutely.	Person #2 – Disagrees I disagree. I don’t think so. No way!
Person #1 – Disagrees I disagree. That’s wrong. I don’t think so.	Person #2 – ALSO Disagrees I also disagree. I don’t think so, either.

Other expressions:

Stating 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...

Asking for an opinion

- What's your idea?
- What are your thoughts on all of this?
- How do you feel about that?
- Do you have anything to say about this?
- What do you think?
- Do you agree?
- Wouldn't you say?

Expressing agreement

- I agree with you 100 percent.
- I couldn't agree with you more.
- That's so true.
- That's for sure.
- **(slang)** Tell me about it!
- You're absolutely right.
- Absolutely.
- That's exactly how I feel.
- Exactly.
- I'm afraid I agree with James.
- I have to side with Dad on this one.
- No doubt about it.
- **(agree with negative statement)** Me neither.
- **(weak)** I suppose so./I guess so.
- You have a point there.
- I was just going to say that.

Expressing disagreement

- I don't think so.
- **(strong)** No way.
- I'm afraid I disagree.
- **(strong)** I totally disagree.
- I beg to differ.
- **(strong)** I'd say the exact opposite.
- Not necessarily.
- That's not always true.
- That's not always the case.
- No, I'm not so sure about that.

Interruptions

- Can I add something here?
- Is it okay if I jump in for a second?
- If I might add something...
- Can I throw my two cents in?
- Sorry to interrupt, but...
- **(after accidentally interrupting someone)** Sorry, go ahead. **OR** Sorry, you were saying...
- **(after being interrupted)** You didn't let me finish.

Settling an argument

- Let's just move on, shall we?
- Let's drop it.
- I think we're going to have to agree to disagree.
- **(sarcastic)** Whatever you say./If you say so.

III. EXAMPLES

Let's take a look at these examples:

(#1)

Person A: Driving is the best way to go places.

Person B: **I disagree!** Driving is bad for the environment.

Person A: Driving is the best way to go places.

Person B: **I agree!** Driving is so convenient.

(#2)

Person A: I think hot weather is the best.

Person B: **Me too!**

Person A: I think hot weather is the best.

Person B: Really? **I disagree.** It makes me grumpy!

IV. NICE TO KNOW

Sometimes everyone in the group agrees. We can say in such a situation that everyone came to an agreement or that the decision was unanimous. Or we can say that they came to a consensus. If you prefer an idiom to express this, you could say: Everyone in the group was on the same page.

Sometimes there is a holdout in the group. This person sticks to his guns and doesn't give in. He won't change his mind. This person doesn't see eye to eye with his group mates.

In fact, this person may enjoy arguing for the sake of arguing. She may want to take the opposing side to make her friends work harder to defend their position. This is called playing devil's advocate. I could say: "Holly, why do you always have to play the devil's advocate? Tell me what you really think!"

When you try to make someone agree with you, you try to persuade him or win him over. If you succeed you can say: I won him over. I changed his mind.

V. HAVE TO REMEMBER

DON'T ADD BE BEFORE AGREE AND DISAGREE!!!

Wrong:

I am agree

I am disagree

Right:

I agree

I disagree

Sometimes when you have gotten into a bad habit, the best way to fix it is to repeat the correct version 100 times.