

Asking and Giving Opinion
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- Agreeing, Disagreeing and Interrupting –

In business we typically must be more diplomatic than Dirty Harry, but we have all had managers and bosses about that difficult! Our goal here though, is to be more tactful, but yet still express our opinions and sometimes, even strong disagreement.

General opinions, agreements or disagreements typically follow these structures:

General Opinion	Agreeing	Disagreeing
I think . . .	I agree.	I wish I could agree, but I can't.
I would prefer . . .	I think so too.	I'm sorry, I don't agree . . .
In my opinion, . . .	I think you are right.	Yes, but . . .
Personally, . . .		I'm afraid I disagree . . .
		I disagree . . .
		It might be better if . . .
		I'm not so sure about that . . .
		That could be a problem, . . .

Example Dialog 1 [in a meeting]:

- A: So, relocating our office to the city center would help improve our business?
B: It might be better if we just stayed here. Our clients know where to find us and parking is much easier here.
C: I think you are right. Personally, I don't think our clients want the hassles of going downtown.
A: I would prefer staying here, but our survey of clients said that a downtown location would be much easier for them.

Activity 1:

Using the structures and example dialog on the previous page and the information on the table below, work with a partner expressing opinions, agreement and disagreement about the issues.

Issue	Agree	Disagree
1. Raising prices to increase cash flow	Prices are elastic* right now, sales will continue regardless of a rise in prices	Prices are already too high. People will quite buying our products and go to our competitors.
2. Redesigning our electronic dictionary to increase sales	A new look and new functions for the dictionary would increase sales	Our customers are familiar with our product. If we change it too much, sales will go down. A change in design and functions will raise costs, too.
3. Opening a new sales office on the other side of town	It will make it easier for our customers to buy our products	It will only reduce sales for this office and increase our costs.
4. Having a big sale for Christmas to increase sales	A sale will lower the price and many more people will buy our product	The price is already very good. Sales won't increase and will only make less money.

* *elastic* means flexible

B. Interrupting to give your Opinion

Use the following phrases when needed to interject your opinion into a discussion.

- Polite Phrases for Interrupting, Correcting, and Disagreeing
- I'm sorry to interrupt, but . . . (more polite)
- Excuse me, but . . . (less polite)
- I'm sorry, but to the best of my understanding . . . (more polite)
- Actually, I don't think that is right . . . (less polite)
- I am afraid I disagree. I think . . .

C. Asking for Opinions

Use the following phrases to ask for opinions.

Asking for Opinions

- What do you think?
- How about you, John?
- Would you agree, Munir?
- Does anyone else have an opinion on this?
- Are there other ideas about this?
- How about some fresh thinking on this issue?

D. Strengthening an Opinion or Statement

Precede your opinions or statements with these phrases to make them stronger.

Strengthening Opinions and Statements

- I really think . . .
- I'm quite sure . . .
- I strongly believe . . .
- We really must . . .

Example Dialog 2 [Dialog 1 continuing . . . in red]:

A: I would prefer staying here, but our survey of clients said that a downtown location would be much easier for them.

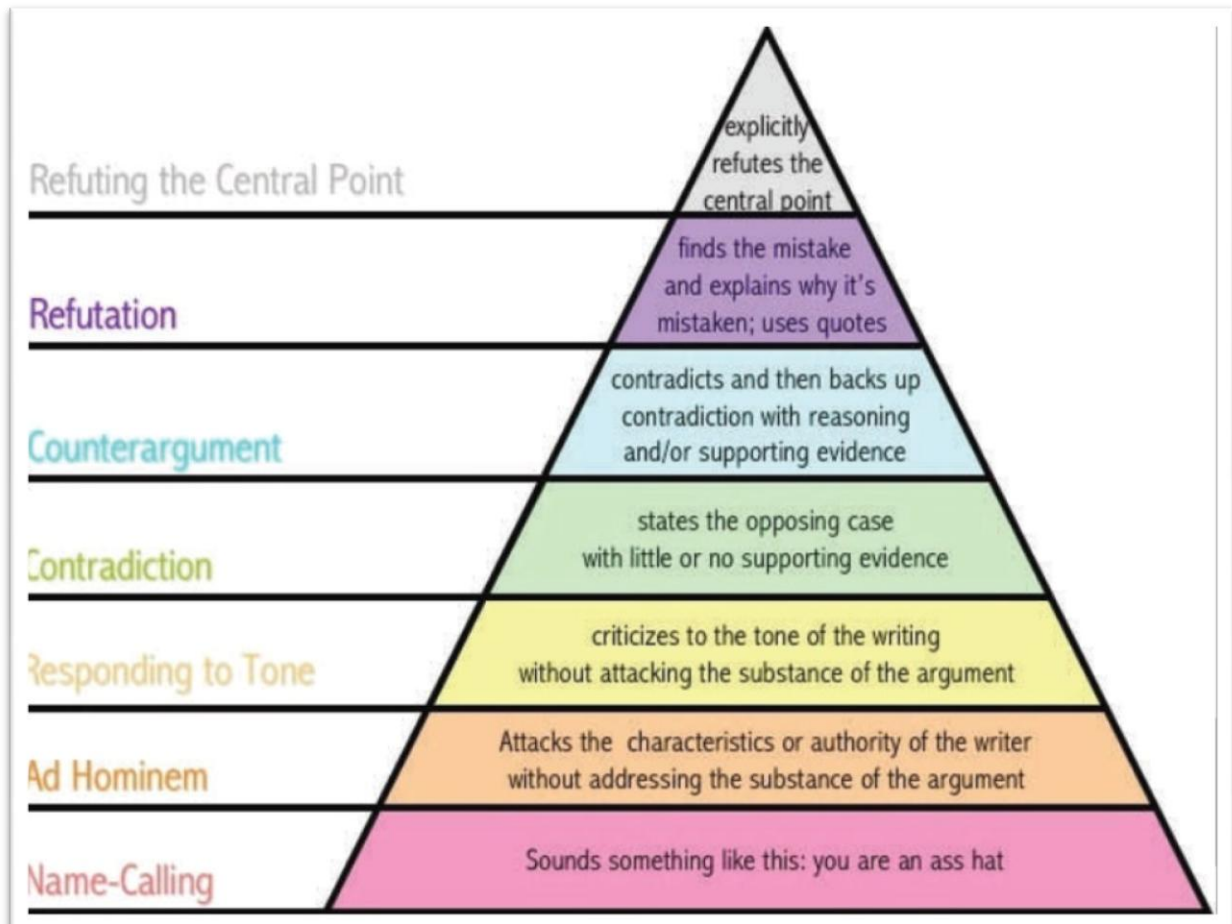
B: I'm sorry to interrupt, but I quite disagree, I really think they were saying it was easier for them to come here. Does anyone else have an opinion on this? John?

D: I thought the survey was inconclusive - there just wasn't enough information. But I am quite sure no one is looking for all the parking problems being downtown would pre-sent.

E: To the best of my understanding our three biggest clients have their offices downtown and I'm quite sure they would prefer just walking over to our office rather than having to drive across town as they do now . . .

Activity 2:

Using the structures and example dialogs on the previous three pages, work with a partner expression opinions, agreement and disagreement about the issues. Use the suggest phrases to interrupt your partner and to strengthen your opinion. Use your own information and opinion about your company as the basis for your dialogs. Work around the room and talk with several other students.



11. Supporting your Opinions

Expressing Advantages and Disadvantages:

“Pros and Cons”

To best support your opinions in discussion, you will need to add supporting information and advantages, and note disadvantages to opposing positions.

The structure of supporting your opinions follows this pattern:

State your Opinion	+	Support	+	Support
<i>for or against</i>	+	add information	+	add more information
I agree, in my opinion . . .	+	support	+	more support
I don't agree, I think . . .	+	first point	+	second point

In the *Example Dialog* notice the words that connect the supporting points: they are in red.

Example Dialog:

- A: The board has suggested opening our first overseas office in Panama City. The purpose of this meeting is to ask your opinions on the issue.
- B: Opinion: I think It might be better if we looked at Pusan, Korea. Support: Office space and housing costs for our staff would be about half the price of Panama City, **and** (support) the population base of potential customers is much larger. Even more Support: **Another point is** that the Korean regulatory system is more supportive of new businesses.
- C: Opinion: I think Korea might be a problem. Support: None of our staff speak Korean **and** (support) we have a good number of staff who are fluent in Spanish and operate comfortably in that environment. Even More Support: **In addition**, Panama City is in the same time zone as here and only a few hours flying time.
- A: Well, I can see that we have some differing opinions here. I think that we probably need to study the points that both of you have made. The language issue is certainly important and so is the fact that it is much closer and much easier to get to Panama from here. The costs of language training, transportation and communication are also important considerations.

Connecting words: Connecting your Supporting Points

- And . . . as well
- In addition . . .
- Another point is . . .
- Another consideration is . . .
- Another thing . . .
- I should also add that . . .

Integrated Activity 1:

Using the structures and example dialogs in this and the previous sections use the information in the table below to agree and disagree as noted using the points given.

Dialog:

The CEO has suggested that the sales team expand overseas. She feels that there is a huge market in other countries that could easily double or triple our sales.

She has asked me to seek your opinions on this issue.

	Opinion	1st Support	2nd Support	Connecting Words
1.	Disagree politely	We have not yet maximized our sales here	Shifting our focus overseas will be distracting and hurt our performance here	and
2.	Agree strongly	Our sales peaked a year ago, it is time we started looking elsewhere to increase our sales	An overseas market would give us an opportunity to test new products, before trying them here	In addition . . .
3.	Disagree strongly	We are all already working 60 hours a week and more!	The extra work will burn us out and create turnover, our experienced staff will quit	And another thing is that . . .

Activity 2

Working with a partner, use the table below to discuss the suggested issues. Give your opinions, agree and disagree, and provide at least two points of support for each opinion.

Our company should . . .

- Raise prices by at least 20% for our products and/or services
- Open another office on the other side of the city
- Reduce the number of staff, but pay everyone more
- Expand into other countries in which we are not yet present

Activity 3:

Working with a partner, create your own issues for your company. They can be real or imaginary. Give your opinions, agree and disagree, and provide at least two points of support for each opinion.



Conversation Cards

How to give personal opinions and how to express hesitation

Cut up the cards and give one set to each group to work on giving opinions, and expressing hesitation.

<p>What is your opinion on buying a house or renting a house in Winnipeg?</p>	<p>The best way to improve your speaking skills is to speak English everyday at home. What do you think?</p>	<p>What is your point of view on drinking alcohol in the park?</p>
<p>What are the most important things that Canadian government needs to do right now?</p>	<p>What are the top three things at work that new immigrants need to know about?</p>	<p>What is the most important information that you would like to share with new immigrants in Winnipeg?</p>
<p>Can you spank kids in your home country? Do you think it is legal to spank kids in Canada?</p>	<p>Do you think drinking and smoking should be banned in Canada, and why?</p>	<p>What is your personal opinion on ...?</p>

Gambit Cards for giving personal opinions

<i>In my mind, ...</i>	<i>I think ...</i>	<i>I think it ...</i>
<i>As far as I am concerned...</i>	<i>I believe ...</i>	<i>Personally, I think ...</i>
<i>Yes. I agree. I think ...</i>	<i>In my humble opinion,</i>	<i>It seems to me that...</i>

Gambit Cards for expressing hesitation

<i>Um, I'm not so sure ...</i>	<i>Well, um I really don't know what to say</i>	<i>Well, let me think about it and I'll get back to you later...</i>
<i>I don't know how should I put it...</i>	<i>I will have to think about it....</i>	<i>Well, that is a difficult question to answer....</i>
<i>Um, a tough question for me</i>	<i>Well, um I am not sure how to describe it ...</i>	<i>I have nothing to comment on it.</i>

Expressing Opinion

Test your understanding of the video lesson by answering these questions:

1. If you _____ me, it is better to live in cities than towns.
 - tell
 - believe
 - question
 - ask
2. _____ seems to me that parents are the best teachers.
 - That
 - It
 - This
 - I
3. Choose the word that emphasizes that you really disagree. I _____ disagree that money is the only way to define success.
 - sort of
 - somewhat
 - strongly
 - kind of
4. "I think" is an opinion expression you should use as much as possible on the IELTS.
 - true
 - false
5. "To be honest", "if you ask me", and "personally speaking" are good opinion expressions to use when you write an essay.
 - true
 - false

These are expressions used in speech.

6. _____ many people think that same-sex schools are a bad idea, I hold the opposite opinion.
 - Although
 - Despite
7. As far as I'm _____, physical exercise should be a mandatory part of every school day.
 - concerned
 - believing
 - thinking
 - inclined
8. "I totally agree", "I absolutely agree", and "I completely agree" can be used in speech to mean "strongly agree".
 - true
 - false

9. When you express your opinion, it is good to contrast it to the opinions of others. Which of the answers is an example of this?

- Although some people may disagree, it appears to me that...
- Although some people agree, it appears to me that..

10. You are likely to get a better mark on the IELTS and TOEFL if you show the degree of certainty of your opinion when agreeing or disagreeing with a statement. Which words are examples of this?

- although, however
- somewhat, strongly
- to be honest, personally speaking

Giving your opinion

Look at the following ways to describe your opinion.

Notice how we can vary the strength of our opinion.

A) Remaining neutral

- "I think (that)."
- "I feel (that)."
- "In my opinion"
- "As far as I'm concerned"
- "As I see it"
- "In my view"
- "To my mind"
- "Well, if you ask me I'd say ..." (fam.).

B) Expressing a strong opinion

- "I'm absolutely convinced that."
- "I'm sure that."
- "I strongly believe that."
- "I have no doubt that."
- "I firmly believe that."
- "Without a shadow of a doubt, I'm for / I'm against this issue."

C) Asking someone to share their opinion with you

- "What do you think?"
- "What's your view?"
- "How do you see the situation?"
- "What do you reckon?"(fam.).
- "How do you see things?"
- "I'm interested in what X has to say. Let's hear him / Let's hear her out."
-

To agree or not to agree – That is the question!

In many everyday situations, whether at work or home people will be asked to give their opinion. This may also involve agreeing or disagreeing with colleagues and friends around you. Look at the following degrees of agreement/disagreement.

A) Agreeing

- "I think you're right."
- "Yes, I see what you mean."
- "I agree with you."
- "Yes, I see what you're getting at"
- "Yes, I see where you're coming from"

B) Agreeing totally

- "I couldn't agree with you more."
- "You've hit the nail on the head there!"(fam.)
- "You're absolutely right."
- "I agree entirely."
- "I totally agree."
- "We really see eye to eye on that matter." (idiom)

C) Partially agreeing

- "I agree with you up to a point, but..."
- "That's quite true, but..."
- "I agree with you in principle, but..."
- "I see what you mean but don't you think that ..."

D) Disagreeing

- "I'm not sure I agree with you."
- "(I'm afraid) I don't agree."
- "(I'm afraid) I disagree."
- "(I'm afraid) I can't agree with you."
- "(I'm afraid) I don't share your opinion."

Note the diplomatic use of the expression "I'm afraid..." when disagreeing politely with someone.

E) Disagreeing totally

- "I don't agree at all."
- "I totally disagree."
- "You've got to be kidding!"(fam)
- "I couldn't agree with you less"

Expression of asking attention, giving attention, asking opinion, appreciation

Expressing of Asking attention in front of the class

When you have to deliver announcement in front of class you need to express the expression to make you become the centre of attention. Below are some common expression used to make the class listen to your speech or announcement.

May I have your attention, please

Can I get the attention! Thanks

Excuse me!

Attention please!

Stop talking please...

Everybody, may I have your attention, please ?

Expression of giving attention

1. OK. I See you
2. Ok.
3. Yes sir/mam/madam
4. Really
5. I know what you mean
6. How interesting
7. What's next

Several expressions to check someone's understanding

Are you understand?

Do you know what I mean?

Do you understand the text?

Have you got the point ?

are you with me?

To give and ask opinion / Contoh contoh expression of asking and giving opinion Asking opinion

What do you think of ...?

What is your opinion about?

Do you have any other idea ?

Please say something about my?

Please, give your view/ opinion about

Giving opinion

I think that you are very beautiful with the dress

I have a view that you are so smart

I think you should have a louder voice

You are very ...

I agree with your opinion

To show appreciation /expression of showing appreciation

you are very kind

thanks for the attention

you are the best

that is my son

Dialog expression of asking attention and giving attention

This conversation happened in front of the class. The teacher is explaining the material , the students are not paying the teacher explanations.

Teachers : OK. Today we are going to learn about Simple past tense, do you know that is simple past tense

Students : no

Teachers : O.K **please pay the attention**, I will describe what the simple past tense is...

Students : I see.

Teachers : have you known about simple past tense?

Students : yes, I have known a little, please explain again.

Teacher :O.K listen to my....

Students : You are best

Teachers : that's my son

WHAT IS OPINION?

An opinion is a judgment, viewpoint, or statement that is not conclusive. In general, an opinion is a subjective belief, and is the result of emotion or interpretation of facts.

Purpose of expressing of asking and giving opinion : To describes how we are to ask the opinions of others and how we provide opinions to others.

Asking Opinions

- What do you think of ... (Apa pendapatmu tentang ...)
- Is that right (true) that ... (Apakah itu benar bahwa...)
- Do you think it's going ... (Apakah Anda pikir itu akan ...)
- Why do they behave like that? (Mengapa mereka berperilaku seperti itu?)
- Do you have any idea? (Apakah kamu punya ide?)
- Please give me your frank opinion. (Tolong beri saya pendapat jujur Anda.)
- What's your opinion? (Apa pendapatmu?)

GIVING OPINION

- In my opinion, ...
- (Menurutku, ...)
- I personally believe ...
- (Saya pribadi percaya ...)
- I personally think ...
- (Saya pribadi berpikir ...)
- I personally feel
- (Saya pribadi merasa...)
- Not everyone will agree with me, but ...
- (Tidak semua orang akan setuju dengan saya, tapi ...)
- To my mind ...
- (menurut pendapat saya)
- From my point of view...
- (Dari sudut pandang saya..)
- Well, personally ..
- (Nah, secara pribadi ...)
- If I had my way I would ...
- (Jika saya punya cara saya saya akan...)
- What I'm more concerned with is ...
- (Apa yang lebih saya perhatikan adalah..)

AGREEING WITH OPINIONS

OPINIONS:

Today's TV programs are terrible.

- **I agree, but what bothers me more is that they're too violent.**
- **I think so too and besides, they're not educational enough.**
- **That's how I feel**

DISAGREEING WITH OPINIONS

OPINIONS:

- In my opinion, the news shows are extremely superficial.
- I don't know about that. I think they're excellent.
- Do you think so? I think they're good.
- I don't think so. They're excellent I think.
- Oh, no.
- I disagree with you.

DIALOGUE

- Andy :Hi Arief. How're you doing?
- Arief :Great, thanks. By the way, have you read a news paper today?
- Andy :No. why?
- Arief :You know, the government will close Facebook on March 2011, and I think that's not a good idea.
- Andy :I don't think so. In my opinion, Facebook is dangerous,especially for teenagers. You know, there was a girl kidnapped by a stranger and she knew that guy who kidnapped her from Fb.
- Arief :I know, but we can't blame Fb as the cause of the problem. That's only a tool, isn't that?
- Andy :Yeah. I agree, but it's still dangerous because the users, especially teenagers can't still use it well

Supporting your Opinions

Expressing Advantages and Disadvantages: "Pros and Cons" To best support your opinions in discussion, you will need to add supporting information and advantages, and note disadvantages to opposing positions. The structure of supporting your opinions follows this pattern:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| ➤ State your Opinion | + Support | + Support |
| ➤ for or against | + add information | + add more information |
| ➤ I agree, in my opinion | + support | + more support |
| ➤ I don't agree, I think | + first point | + second point |

References :

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