

Phrases for Disagreeing

Activity Type

Vocabulary and Reading Exercises: unscrambling, gap-fill, ordering

Speaking Activity: role-play, discussion, communicative practice (group work)

Focus

Phrases for disagreeing

Aim

To practice eight phrases for disagreeing in a discussion.

Preparation

Make one copy of the two-page worksheet for each student

Level

Upper-intermediate (B2)

Time

30 minutes

Introduction

In this expressing disagreement worksheet, students practice eight phrases for disagreeing in a discussion.

Procedure

Give each student a copy of the two-page worksheet.

Students begin by ordering words to make phrases that express disagreement.

Exercise A - Answer key

1. I'm not sure I agree with you because...
2. I think there's more to it than that.
3. I'm not sure I agree.
4. I don't see it that way.
5. I see what you mean, but...
6. I'm not sure that's true.
7. Maybe that's true, but...
8. I don't agree.

Next, students complete responses in discussions with the phrases for disagreeing.

Exercise B - Answer key

1. I'm not sure I agree. / I don't see it that way. / I don't agree.
2. I'm not sure I agree with you because... / I see what you mean, but... / Maybe that's true, but...
3. I think there is more to it than that. / I'm not sure I agree. / I'm not sure that's true. / I don't agree
4. I'm not sure I agree with you because... / I see what you mean, but... / Maybe that's true, but...
5. I think there is more to it than that. / I'm not sure I agree. / I don't see it that way. / I'm not sure that's true. / I don't agree.

After that, students put a discussion dialogue about space exploration in the correct order.

Exercise C - Answer key

1. f 2. k 3. i 4. e 5. h 6. a
7. d 8. b 9. j 10. c 11. g 12. l

Students then role-play the discussion in groups of three to practice the phrases for disagreeing.

Finally, in their groups, students discuss five questions using the disagreement phrases as much as possible.

Note: This resource can be edited using a PDF editor.

A. Order the words to make phrases that express disagreement.

1. not / sure / because / agree / you / I'm / I / with

.....

2. it / I / more / to / think / there's / than / that

.....

3. agree / not / I / sure / I'm

.....

4. way / see / I / it / don't / that

.....

5. what / but / you / I / see / mean

.....

6. I'm / that's / not / sure / true

.....

7. true / maybe / but / that's

.....

8. agree / I / don't

.....

B. Complete the responses in the discussions with the phrases for disagreeing.

1. A: I think studying online is more effective than studying in the classroom.

B: I think the opposite is true.

2. A: University education should be free for everyone. Nobody should miss out because they can't afford it.

B: they'll probably have to increase taxes to pay for it.

3. A: Dogs are the best pets because they are so loyal.

B: Not everyone has the space for a dog or can afford to have one.

4. A: Buying a lottery ticket is a waste of money. You never win.

B: somebody has to win it.

5. A: Everyone should travel abroad at least once in their life. It really opens your mind.

B: Not everyone can afford to travel or even wants to.

C. Put the discussion dialogue about space exploration in the correct order.

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6.
7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12.

- a. Max: **I'm not sure that's true.** I don't think spending billions of dollars on going into space can help stop poverty or hunger, for example.
- b. Maria: Not only that, but a lot of the discoveries made through exploring space have advanced scientific and medical knowledge here on Earth. Without more space exploration, humanity's very survival is at risk.
- c. Lin: **I'm not sure I agree with you because** space exploration encourages global cooperation and could potentially unite countries in a common goal, which is more important than ever for our survival.
- d. Lin: **I see what you mean, but** the space industry boosts the economy and provides employment for thousands of people. That can help improve living conditions for everyone.
- e. Max: **Maybe that's true, but** there are so many issues on Earth. The money spent on 'reaching the stars' and 'dreaming big' should be used to fix things here first.
- f. Maria: I'm really excited about the advancements in space exploration. I think it's essential for the survival of humanity.
- g. Max: I guess we'll just have to agree to disagree on this one.
- h. Maria: **I don't agree,** Max. The potential benefits of space exploration are immense and will help solve the problems you're talking about.
- i. Lin: **I think there's more to it than that.** Space exploration inspires future generations to reach for the stars and dream big. It's for everyone, not just the rich.
- j. Max: **I'm not sure I agree,** Maria. I think we have more chance of ensuring our survival if we focus on fixing the problems here on Earth before looking to the stars.
- k. Max: The survival of humanity? **I don't see it that way.** I think going into space is a massive waste of money. It's just a hobby for rich people.
- l. Maria: Yes, let's change the subject. Where are we going for lunch?

D. Role-play the discussion in groups of three to practice the phrases.**E. Now, in your groups, practice the disagreement phrases by discussing the questions.**

1. Is online learning as effective as traditional classroom learning?
2. Should junk food be banned in school cafeterias?
3. Should students be required to wear school uniforms?
4. Is it better to travel alone or with a group?
5. Is it okay to be friends with your ex?

