

# Useful interview expressions

1 Here are some common spoken expressions that you might find useful in the IELTS Speaking Test. Put each expression into the correct box in the table according to its function.

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Could I just say that...?         | 11. I don't entirely agree.                 |
| 2. What are your views on...?        | 12. I see things rather differently myself. |
| 3. Do you agree that...?             | 13. Let me interrupt you there.             |
| 4. Sorry to interrupt,...            | 14. What do you think about...?             |
| 5. Excuse me for interrupting,...    | 15. Sorry to butt in,...                    |
| 6. I agree.                          | 16. That's just what I think.               |
| 7. Well, as a matter of fact,...     | 17. That's right.                           |
| 8. I couldn't agree more.            | 18. Well, actually,...                      |
| 9. That's my view exactly.           | 19. What's your opinion?                    |
| 10. What are your feelings about...? | 20. I'm afraid I disagree / don't agree.    |

Agreeing with somebody
I agree.....
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Disagreeing with somebody
I don't entirely agree.....
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.....

Interrupting somebody
Could I just say that...?
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Asking somebody for their opinion
Do you agree that...?
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2 Now do the same with these.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. In other words,...                              | 11. I'm sorry?                            |
| 2. What I mean is...                               | 12. To put it another way...              |
| 3. May I think about that for a moment?            | 13. Let me think about that for a moment. |
| 4. So, in conclusion,...                           | 14. That's an interesting question.       |
| 5. Could you repeat the question?                  | 15. To summarise,...                      |
| 6. Perhaps I should make that clearer by saying... | 16. What was that?                        |
| 7. Let me see.                                     | 17. What I'm trying to say is...          |
| 8. In short / brief,...                            | 18. Hmm, how can I put / say this?        |
| 9. To sum up,...                                   | 19. So, basically,...                     |
| 10. I'm afraid I didn't catch that.                | 20. Would you mind repeating that?        |

# Useful interview expressions

Asking for clarification or repetition
<i>Could you repeat the question?</i> .....
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Saying something in another way
<i>In other words...</i> .....
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Giving yourself time to think
<i>Hmm, how can I put / say this?</i> .....
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Summing up what you have said
<i>So, basically...</i> .....
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.....

3 Fill in the gaps in these extracts from IELTS-style interviews with a suitable expression from Exercise 1 or 2. In each case, more than one answer is possible.

1.

Interviewer: Why are so many people obsessed with celebrities?

Student: .....

Interviewer: Why are so many people obsessed with celebrities?

2.

Interviewer: A lot of people say that we've become too reliant on technology. What's your opinion?

Student: ..... In fact, I think that it's taking over our lives.

3.

Interviewer: Do you think that people in places like India, Bangladesh and other African countries work harder...

Student: ..... but don't you mean Asian countries?

Interviewer: Of course, yes, that's what I meant.

4.

Interviewer: Some professional sports people are paid far too much. Do you agree?

Student: ..... First of all, I think that there are times when the salary they're paid is justified, but then again, a lot of them...

5.

Interviewer: The way parents behave can have a profound effect on how their children develop. Do you agree?

Student: Yes I do. Children need people who can influence them in a positive way, and who can show them the difference between right and wrong. ..... they need good role models.

6.

Interviewer: Some people say that private vehicle ownership should be banned, and we should all use public transport. Are they right, do you think?

Student: ..... First of all, public transport can't always take you exactly where you want to go. Secondly, it's expensive and unreliable. Then there's the problem with....