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LearnEnglish

Speaking: B2

Discussing advantages and disadvantages

In this video, Noelia and Yuna talk about how to encourage creativity in the office. Listen to the language they use to discuss advantages and disadvantages and practise saying the useful phrases.

Before watching

Do the preparation task first. Then watch the video and do the exercises.

Preparation task

Put the words in the correct order.

1. one the On hand ...
2. on the But other hand ...
3. what see mean. I you
4. just sure. not I'm
5. an issue There be that. could with
6. see I where coming you're from.
7. There advantages. are lots of
8. But the I can also disadvantages. see

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Tasks

Task 1

Are the sentences true or false?

	Answer	
1. Noelia thinks it would be a good idea to have a trampoline in the office.	True	False
2. Yuna has her best ideas when she's at her desk.	True	False
3. Noelia has never been on a trampoline.	True	False
4. Yuna is worried about what the clients would think of a trampoline.	True	False
5. Noelia thinks that trampolining is good for your health.	True	False
6. Yuna says yes to Noelia's idea.	True	False

Task 2

Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

advantages	coming	disadvantages	hand
issue	mean	other	sure

1. On the one ..... it's a lovely idea.
2. But on the ..... hand it could be noisy.
3. I see what you ..... .
4. I'm just not ..... if a trampoline is necessary.
5. There could be an ..... with the clients seeing us jumping around.
6. I see where you're ..... from, but I think our clients will love it!
7. There are lots of ..... to trampolining. It's good for you.
8. I can also see the ..... . What if someone hurts themself?

Task 3

Write one word to fill the gaps.

A: Let's travel by train to the Glasgow conference next month.

B: I'm (1)..... sure. I think I'd prefer to fly.

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A: Really? On the (2)..... hand flying is quicker, but on the (3)..... hand the train is more relaxing.

B: I see (4)..... you're coming from, but I still think the plane is the best option.

A: There are lots of advantages (5)..... the train. It's cheaper and more environmentally friendly.

B: Yes, but I can also (6)..... the disadvantages. It's a long journey and there are often delays.

A: I see (7)..... you mean, but we could work on the train and see the Scottish countryside.

B: OK. I'm not saying yes but I'll think (8)..... it!

Discussion

When and where do you have your best ideas?

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Transcript

Ana: Hi! I'm Ana. Welcome to *What to Say*!

Do you know what to say when you discuss advantages and disadvantages? Listen out for useful language for discussing advantages and disadvantages. Then, we'll practise saying the new phrases – after this.

Noelia: So, table tennis, bean bags, board games, video games! Hey, how about a trampoline?

Yuna: Stop right there. I love your ideas, Noelia, but a trampoline? Really?

Noelia: Absolutely. When do you have your best ideas?

Yuna: I don't know. Usually when I'm cooking, I suppose.

Noelia: Exactly. We often have our best ideas when we are away from our desks. The other day I was on a trampoline and the vision for the creativity room came to me.

Yuna: Why were you on a trampo...? Never mind. Look, on the one hand it's a lovely idea and it fits with our brand, but on the other hand it could be noisy and chaotic and maybe too much fun!

Noelia: But having fun helps you be creative, and being creative is vital to our business!

Yuna: I see what you mean, but I'm just not sure if a trampoline is necessary. Also, there could be an issue with the clients arriving at the office and seeing us all jumping around.

Noelia: I see where you're coming from, but I think our clients will love it! And there are lots of advantages to trampolining. It's good for the body and the mind.

Yuna: Maybe, but I can also see the disadvantages. What if someone hurts themselves?

Noelia: But we're all adults. And we can get extra insurance. Come on! It's a great idea!

Yuna: OK, I'll think about it.

Noelia: Perfect. I'll email you some links!

Yuna: I haven't said yes! Oh, Noelia!

Ana: Hello again! A trampoline in the office? Well, there's an idea! So, did you notice the useful phrases used for discussing advantages and disadvantages? Listen to me and then repeat.

On the one hand ..., but on the other hand ...

I see what you mean, but I'm just not sure.

There could be an issue with that.

I see where you're coming from, but I think they'll love it.

There are lots of advantages.

Maybe, but I can also see the disadvantages.

Ana: Try and use some of these phrases the next time you discuss advantages and disadvantages in English. Bye for now!

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Answers

Preparation task

1. On the one hand ...
2. But on the other hand ...
3. I see what you mean.
4. I'm just not sure.
5. There could be an issue with that.
6. I see where you're coming from.
7. There are lots of advantages.
8. But I can also see the disadvantages.

Task 1

1. True
2. False
3. False
4. True
5. True
6. False

Task 2

1. hand
2. other
3. mean
4. sure
5. issue
6. coming
7. advantages
8. disadvantages

Task 3

1. not
2. one
3. other
4. where
5. to | with | of
6. see | understand
7. what
8. about | on

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