

1 USEFUL LANGUAGE

Being tactful in formal discussions

a Complete the conversation with the phrases in the box.

What did you think

I see where you're coming from
No offence intended
In fact, if you don't mind me saying so
OK, I take your point
I beg to differ
With all due respect

A ¹ What did you think of the presentation?

B ² _____ but I found it dull.

A I think ³ _____ but I
⁴ _____.

B So you found it interesting?

A Well, not exactly interesting, but dull is a little harsh.

B ⁵ _____, it's much better to be frank. It was boring.

A ⁶ _____. It wasn't that interesting but we need to be more supportive.

B I disagree. ⁷ _____, he needs to be told.

A I'll leave that to you then. You're his manager!

2 PRONUNCIATION

Homophones in words and connected speech

a  Listen and match the homophones in the box to the underlined words in the sentences.

ate cereal queue died break aloud weak blue

1 I have eight brothers. ate _____

2 When I was a child, I was only allowed to eat sweets once a week. _____

3 My mother dyed the sheets blue. _____

4 I had to brake very late to avoid an accident. _____

5 I eat out at least three times a week. _____

6 My sister arrived right on cue, just as someone mentioned her name. _____

7 The strong winds blew the parasols over. _____

8 The police are still looking for a serial killer. _____