

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.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

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

Interrupting somebody
Could I just say that...?
.....
.....
.....
.....

Asking somebody for their opinion
Do you agree that...?
.....
.....
.....
.....

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	Saying something in another way
<i>Could you repeat the question?</i>	<i>In other words,</i>
.....	
.....	
.....	
.....	

Giving yourself time to think	Summing up what you have said
<i>Hmm, how can I put / say this?</i>	<i>So, basically,</i>
.....	
.....	
.....	
.....	

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.

- Interviewer: Why are so many people obsessed with celebrities?
 Student:
 Interviewer: Why are so many people obsessed with celebrities?
- 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.
- 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.
- 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...
- 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.
- 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....