What Do You Think?

AGREEING TO DISAGREE

"I never learned from a man who agreed with me."
Robert Heinlein (1907–1988), American writer

Life would be boring if we all agreed all the time. The following phrases let you state your position clearly while keeping the conversation friendly. Read all phrases aloud.

Expressing agreement ...or disagreement

I agree.	I don't agree.
That's right.	Sorry, I disagree.
Absolutely.	I can't go along with that.
That's true.	That's not completely true.
I believe that.	I don't believe that.
That's a good idea.	That's quite a stretch.
That's right on target.	That's way off base.
That's valid.	That's invalid.
I accept that.	I can't accept that. I reject that.
I partly agree.	I think you are wrong here.
I support that.	I can't support that.
That idea has my vote.	I have a different idea./I have a better idea.
I definitely agree.	I beg to differ.
I strongly agree.	That doesn't make sense. Is that logical?
I couldn't agree more.	That seems simplistic.
	I see things differently.
	That's not always true.
	On the contrary.

Seeking clarification

Sometimes we need more information. Use these phrases:

So? What do you mean?
Can you rephrase that? Why do you say that?
Can you give another example? Have you considered…?
What if the situation were a bit different? What if…?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Do you think that is the only reason/cause/explanation? How far would you go?
Are you sure? Why are you so sure?
What's your source for that bit of information? How do you know?
Can you imagine some alternatives? Is there another possibility?

ACTIVITY

Choose a topic about which you and your conversation partner disagree. Spend a few minutes discussing your opinions in a friendly, respectful way. Use some of the phrases at the beginning of this lesson to keep the conversation flowing.

- Select the topic
- Take a stand
- Gather arguments
- Ensure Equal Participation

Some rules...

A few tips for satisfying conversations with your partners:

- Be active
- Be **curious**
- Be **encouraging**
- Be kind
- Be open
- Be tolerant
- Make mistakes
- Be yourself

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Topics:

- Smoking should be banned
- Schools should ban religion classes
- Death penalty must be implemented to reduce crime
- Gay marriage should be legalized
- Alcohol should be illegal.
- Countries need to legalize recreational marihuana.
- Marriage is outdated.
- Ill patients should be allowed to end their lives
- Sex education should be taught in schools

Discuss.



BEING YOURSELF

Sharing Perspectives

"It's only after we've lost everything that we're free to do anything."

— Chuck Palahniuk, Fight Club

LIVEWORKSHEETS

"You are not your job, you're not how much money you have in the bank. You are not the car you drive. You're not the contents of your wallet. You are not your khakis. You are all singing, all dancing crap of the world."

— Chuck Palahniuk, Fight Club

Discuss:

1. Which three adjectives would you use to describe your personality?
2. Are you shy or outgoing? When are you most outgoing?
3. Are you daring or cautious? In what ways?
4. Are you usually patient or impatient? Can you give an example?
5. Are you quiet or talkative? When are you most talkative? Least?
6. Would you call yourself a leader or a follower? Why?
7. Are you generous or selfish? Are you too selfish or over generous?
8. In what ways are you rigid? In what ways are you flexible?
9. In what ways are you traditional? In what ways are you modern?
10. If pessimistic is 1 and optimistic is 10, what would your number be on the scale? Why did you decide on that number?
11. On a scale of 1-10, how assertive are you?
12. Is your personality more like your mother or your father? In what ways?
13. Which color would you use to describe your personality?
14. Which animal would you use to describe yourself? Tiger? Mouse? Why?
15. Do you believe in astrology? Which sign are you in the zodiac? Does the pattern of this sign match your personality?
16. Which animal year are you according to Chinese astrology? Does this fit?
17. Have you ever taken a personality test from a magazine or online? Was it helpful? Was it fun? Was it accurate?

LIVEWORKSHEETS