

## A Asking for and giving opinions

A Apparently, the government's current thinking is to give university students free education. What do you think about this?

B Personally, I think it's a good idea. It would be fairer for students who can't really afford higher education.

B Yes, but can the country afford it? Surely that will just mean higher taxes for everyone? Anyway, it seems to me we need more skilled workers, such as builders.

A I see what you mean, but we do need highly skilled and qualified workers as well.

B True, but the thing is, we've already got too many graduates who can't get jobs.

## SPOTLIGHT giving opinions

Personally, I think (that) ... and It seems to me ..., are common ways of giving opinions. You may also hear: In my opinion, ... formal and if you ask me, ...

## GLOSSARY

apparently	based on what you have heard or read
thinking (on sth)	ideas and opinions about sth
What do you think about ...?	used to ask sb's opinion about a general topic (syn <b>How do you feel about ...?</b> ): <i>What do you think about science fiction?</i> We usually use <b>think of</b> when asking about a person or thing: <i>What do you think of his new book?</i>
surely	used to say that you are almost certain of what you are saying, and you want sb to agree with you
I see what you mean (but ...)	used for telling sb that you understand what they are saying, but you may not agree
qualified	having passed the exams or completed the training necessary to do a particular job <b>qualify v</b>
the thing is inf	used to introduce an important fact, reason or explanation

## 1 Form correct sentences from the words.

- difficult / is / the / to / solve / thing / it's
- 1 think / this / you / idea / do / what / of ?
- 2 I / is / think / good / personally / a / idea / it
- 3 qualified / we / more / surely / need / workers ?
- 4 choice / to / it / no / seems / we / have / me
- 5 it / disaster / if / me / ask / a / you / was
- 6 an / will / soon / apparently / there / be / election

The thing is, it's difficult to solve.

## 2 Rewrite the opinions using the words on the right. The meaning must stay the same.

► I think the government is wrong.	ASK	If you ask me, the government is wrong.
1 I think we should do something.	SEEM	.....
2 What do you think about that?	FEEL	.....
3 I think we should help them.	OPINION	.....
4 What does the army think about that? THINKING	.....	.....
5 I understand what you're saying, but ...	SEE	.....
6 If you ask me, that's stupid.	PERSONALLY	.....

## 3 Complete the sentences.

- Personally, I thought the film was awful.
- 1 ...., the government made a mistake with the figures, or so I've heard.
- 2 If you ...., the most important thing is to find a new manager.
- 3 .... you don't think the Earth is flat? I can't believe it!
- 4 We both think it's important, but the .... is, no one knows what to do about it.
- 5 Do you understand the government's .... on drugs?
- 6 .... do you think about the problems in prisons at the moment?
- 7 I .... what you mean, but hospitals definitely need more money.
- 8 It .... to me that we need to stop using petrol as soon as possible.



## TEST YOURSELF

## B Points of view

### Yes, no or sometimes?

- I have the same **point of view** on things as my parents.
- I enjoy **expressing my opinion** online.
- I'm **against** freedom of speech **in some cases**.
- I'm **prepared to** admit when I **have no idea about** a particular **topic**.
- There are some subjects I have **fixed** ideas about, and I'm not **willing to** discuss.
- I sometimes **change my mind** when I'm discussing things with people.
- I don't like to **judge** people only on their opinions.

### GLOSSARY

<b>point of view</b>	the particular opinion or attitude that sb has about sth
<b>express</b>	tell or show what you are thinking by words, looks or action: <b>express your opinions/feelings</b>
<b>be against sth</b>	If you <b>are against sth</b> , you do not agree with it. OPP <b>be in favour (of sth)</b>
<b>in some cases</b>	in some situations
<b>prepared to do sth</b>	happy to do sth SYN <b>willing to do sth</b>
<b>have no idea (about sth) inf</b>	used to emphasize that you do not know sth
<b>topic</b>	a subject that you talk, write or learn about
<b>fixed</b>	(of ideas) not changing
<b>change your mind (about sth)</b>	change your decision or opinion
<b>judge</b>	form an opinion on sth/sb, based on the information you have

4 Is the pronunciation of the underlined sounds the same or different? Write **S** or **D**. Use the  to help you. Practise saying the words.

► change / case S  
1 prepared / favour ..... 3 willing / opinion ..... 5 judge / against .....  
2 idea / mind ..... 4 favour / opinion ..... 6 fixed / express .....

5 Circle the correct answer.

► Are you willing / against to accept the plans?  
1 I think what they suggest is true in some case / cases.  
2 Are you expressing / changing your mind about who you will vote for?  
3 It's an interesting point / topic of view, but I don't agree with it.  
4 I have not / no idea about the unemployment situation.  
5 Is he in favour / against of the proposal?  
6 I don't judge / express people based on the way they look.

6 Complete the dialogues.

► Is he in favour of it? ~ No, he's against ..... it.  
1 Are you prepared to do it? ~ Yes, I'm ..... to do it.  
2 Is the information always true? ~ No, it's only true in some ..... .  
3 Do you still believe in life after death? ~ Yes, I haven't changed my ..... about that.  
4 Will you speak at the meeting? ~ Yes, I plan to ..... my opinion.  
5 Does everyone in the class agree? ~ No, there are several different ..... of view.  
6 It's not an easy subject to discuss. ~ No, it's a difficult ..... .  
7 Do you know what Daniel thinks? ~ No, I have no ..... .  
8 Is Carol likely to change her opinion? ~ No, she has very ..... ideas about how to study.

7 ABOUT YOU Write your answers to the questionnaire, or ask another student.

► My parents and I have the same point of view on many things, but not on politics.



TEST YOURSELF