93 Opinions

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 **How do you feel about ...?**): *What do you **think about** science fiction?* We usually use **think of** when asking about a person or thing: *What do you **think of** his new book?*
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 **qualify** *v*
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 — The thing is, it's difficult to solve.

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

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

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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

▶ change / case S

1 prepared / favour .....
2 idea / mind .....
3 willing / opinion .....
4 favour / opinion .....
5 judge / against .....
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