SPEAKING ACTIVITY

Agreeing and disagreeing

In this video, Emir and Paul discuss a design for a client. Listen to the language they use for agreeing and disagreeing and practise saying the useful phrases.

Do the preparation exercise first. Then watch the video and do the exercises to check your understanding and practise the language.

PREPARATION

1 Put the phrases in the correct groups.

Yes, definitely. | I think I disagree. | I'm not so sure. | I'm not convinced.

Don't get me wrong, but I don't think so. | I think you're right. | I agree.

AGREEING	DISAGREEING

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TASK 1

1 Decide which sentence gives the best summary of the video. Choose the best answer.

Emir and Paul discuss the design but can't agree on any changes.

Emir and Paul disagree on the design, but they make some changes and finally agree.

Emir and Paul both agree on the design and decide no changes are needed.

TASK 2

2 Put the words in the correct order.

convinced by idea. that not I'm

not sure. so I'm

disagree. think I I

Don't get me wrong, but think that I don't they fit.

but you mean, what it looks a bit empty. I see

Ok, there. point maybe you've got a

think you're I right.

So it looks like agree! we

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TASK 3

3 Complete the dialogue.

not so sure	convinced	got a point	definitely
I disagree	right	what you mean	get me wrong

A: Here's my design for the new advertising campaign. What do you think?

B: I'm not _____ that this is what the client wants.

A: But they asked for bright colours.

B: I think _____. They said they wanted the design to be fresh and fun.

A: But this design IS fresh and fun.

B: I'm _____.

A: Really?

B: Don't _____, I like your design but it doesn't fit the brief.

A: I see _____. I guess it's a bit too flashy.

B: What about changing the red and the stars?

A: Maybe you've _____ there. I think you're _____. Is that better?

B: Yes, _____

_____

Transcript

Ana: Hi! I'm Ana. Welcome to What to Say!

Do you know what to say when you agree and disagree? Listen out for useful language for agreeing and disagreeing. Then, we'll practise saying the new phrases – after this.

Paul: So?

Emir: I'm not convinced by that idea.

Paul: Why?

Emir: Well, this design is just too simple.

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Paul: It's not simple, it's minimal. Plus, it's what the client asked for.

Emir: I'm not so sure. Look … Look at these designs here. I think this is the style that the client wants.

Paul: Hmmm … I think I disagree. They said they wanted it clean and minimal.

Emir: These designs are clean and minimal.

Paul: Look, don't get me wrong, Emir. I like them, but I don't think they fit the brief. For example, here, there's just a bit too much going on.

Emir: OK, I see what you mean, but without all the colour, it would look a bit … empty.

Paul: True. OK, how about taking that and that away? So it still looks interesting, but less busy.

Emir: OK … maybe you've got a point there. Actually, that has given me an idea.

…

Emir: So we remove the blue. I think that creates a nice balance.

Paul: Yeah, yeah. I think you're right. Changing the circles helped too.

Emir: I agree. So we're happy with this now?

Paul: Yes, definitely.

Emir: So it looks like we can agree!

Paul: Occasionally.

Ana: Hello again! I'm pleased that Paul and Emir agreed with each other in the end. So, did you notice the useful phrases used for agreeing and disagreeing? Listen to me and then repeat.

I'm not convinced by that idea.
I'm not so sure.
I think I disagree.
Don't get me wrong, but I don't think they fit.
I see what you mean, but it looks a bit empty.
OK, maybe you've got a point there.
I think you're right.
Yes, definitely.
I agree.

Ana: Try and use some of these phrases the next time you agree and disagree in English. Bye for now!

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