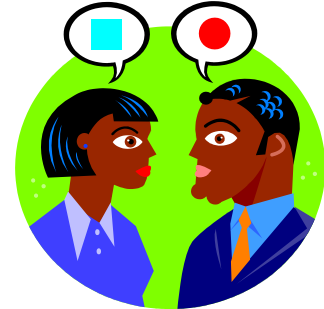


Phone English

Lesson: S101

Debates and Discussions

Aim: To express polite agreement and disagreement



- A. Look at the language in the boxes below. Think about the expressions you would feel comfortable using. Talk about these with your teacher.

Opinions and Preferences

I think...	In my opinion...
From my perspective...	From my point of view....
The way I see it...	As far as I'm concerned...
I suspect that...	I'm pretty sure that...
It is fairly certain that...	I'm convinced that...
I strongly believe that...	Without a doubt...

Partial Disagreement

This is often more polite than disagreeing totally.

I see what you mean but...
I agree to a certain extent but...
I do understand your point but...

Disagreeing

I don't think that...	I don't agree. I'd prefer...
Shouldn't we consider...	But what about...?
I'm afraid I don't agree...	Frankly, I doubt if...
Let's face it, the truth of the matter is...	
The problem with your point of view is that...	
Don't you think it would be better...?	

Phone English

Giving Reasons and Offering Explanations

To start with, the reason why...
For this reason...
Considering...

That's why...
That's the reason why...
Many people think...

Summarising

So you see...
I'd just like to finish by saying...
So what you're saying is...

In summary...
In conclusion...
What I'm saying is...

B. Choose 3 statements from the ones below and think of reasons for or against these statements.

- *Military service in should be compulsory for everybody*
- *Taxes are too high*
- *Drunk drivers should go to jail*
- *Public transportation should be free*
- *Health care should be free for all people*
- *Capital punishment is necessary and prevents crime*
- *Smoking should not be allowed in public places*
- *Women should take care of children because they are better at this job*

C. Practice using the expressions from the boxes

- Give your opinions on 1 of the above statements to your teacher. Try to use some of the language in the boxes.
- Give your opinion on a second statement to your teacher. This time your teacher will try to take an opposing view. Argue back politely.

D. Homework

Go to: http://www.eslflow.com/Ranking_global_problems.pdf

Rank these in order of importance and be prepared to explain why. Debate the order with your teacher next time.