

EXPRESSING DOUBT

A2-B1 | Functional language for questioning ideas politely

1 Useful phrase patterns

Use these phrases to express doubt politely and ask for more evidence when needed.

I'm not sure about that.

I'm not sure about that. It seems difficult.

I don't think so.

I don't think so. The shop is closed today.

Really?

Really? I did not know that.

Are you sure?

Are you sure? I thought it started at six.

Maybe, but ...

Maybe, but the weather forecast says rain.

I have my doubts.

I have my doubts. It is a very long journey.

That might be true, but ...

That might be true, but we need more information.

I am not convinced.

I am not convinced. Can you explain why?

2 Respond to the situations

Write one polite response expressing doubt for each situation.

1. A friend says a new cafe is the best cafe in the city, but you have not tried it.

2. Someone says it will be sunny all weekend, but you saw rain in the forecast.

3. Your classmate says the test will be very easy, but you think the subject is difficult.

4. A colleague says a project can be finished in one day, but it has many steps.

5. A friend says a very cheap phone is excellent, but you do not know the brand.

6. Someone says that buses never arrive late in your town, but you have often waited a long time.

7. A classmate says that everyone loves online learning, but you know some people dislike it.

8. A friend says you can learn a language in one week, but this seems unlikely to you.

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A2-B1 | Suggested answers

3 Possible answers

These are examples only. Other accurate and suitable responses are also correct.

Encourage students to choose a phrase that suits the relationship and situation.

1. Really? I have not tried it, so I am not sure about that.

2. Maybe, but the weather forecast says rain this weekend.

3. I am not convinced. I think the subject is quite difficult.

4. I have my doubts. The project has many steps to complete.

5. Are you sure? I do not know that brand.

6. I don't think so. I have often waited a long time for a bus.

7. I don't think everyone enjoys it. I know some people dislike online learning.

8. I'm not sure about that. Learning a language usually takes much longer.
