

EXPRESSING DOUBT

B2-C1 | 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 entirely convinced that ...

I'm not entirely convinced that the evidence is strong enough.

I would question whether ...

I would question whether this is the most practical solution.

That seems unlikely, given ...

That seems unlikely, given the limited time available.

I'm sceptical about ...

I'm sceptical about the claimed savings.

I can see the argument, but ...

I can see the argument, but the data is incomplete.

I'm not sure the evidence supports that.

I'm not sure the evidence supports that conclusion.

It may be worth reconsidering ...

It may be worth reconsidering the proposed deadline.

I would need more information before ...

I would need more information before agreeing to that.

2 Respond to the situations

Write one polite response expressing doubt for each situation.

1. A manager says a new system will reduce costs immediately, but no cost analysis has been shared.

2. A colleague suggests launching a large campaign next month, although the team has not tested the idea.

3. A report claims that remote work always increases productivity, but it uses only a small survey.

4. Someone says a supplier is completely reliable, although they have only used the supplier once.

5. A team member wants to set a deadline for Friday, but two important people will be away.

6. A friend says an online article proves that a health treatment works, but it gives no sources.

7. A client says a complex change will have no effect on customers, but nobody has asked customers yet.

8. Someone proposes making a major decision today, although the financial details are still unclear.

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B2-C1 | 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. I'm not entirely convinced that costs will fall immediately because we have not seen a cost analysis.

2. I would question whether next month is realistic when the idea has not yet been tested.

3. I'm not sure the evidence supports that claim because the survey is very small.

4. I'm sceptical about calling the supplier completely reliable after only one order.

5. It may be worth reconsidering the Friday deadline because two key people will be away.

6. I would need more information before accepting that the treatment works, especially reliable sources.

7. I can see the argument, but we have no customer feedback yet.

8. I would need more information before agreeing to make such a major decision today.
