

SOFTENING DISAGREEMENT

A2-B1 | Functional language for disagreeing politely

1 Useful phrase patterns

Use these phrases to give a different opinion without sounding too direct.

I'm not sure I agree.

I'm not sure I agree. It is quite useful.

I see what you mean, but ...

I see what you mean, but it costs too much.

Maybe, but ...

Maybe, but we need more time.

I don't think so.

I don't think so. It is still early.

I'm afraid I disagree.

I'm afraid I disagree. I prefer the first plan.

That's one way of looking at it, but ...

That's one way of looking at it, but I disagree.

I have a different opinion.

I have a different opinion. I think it will help.

Perhaps, although ...

Perhaps, although the weather may change.

2 Respond to the situations

Write one polite response that gives a different opinion in each situation.

1. A friend says learning English is impossible for adults. You think adults can learn languages.

2. Your colleague says the cheapest hotel is always the best choice. You think location is important too.

3. A classmate wants to cancel a group presentation because one student is absent. You think the group can continue.

4. A friend says all online courses are boring. You have enjoyed some online courses.

5. Someone says people should never use cars in cities. You think cars are necessary for some people.

6. Your friend says a restaurant is bad because it is busy. You think it may be popular for a reason.

7. A colleague says the team should choose the fastest plan. You think they should choose the safest plan.

8. A classmate says television is a waste of time. You think some programmes are educational.

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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. I'm not sure I agree. Adults can learn languages too.

2. I see what you mean, but location is important as well.

3. Maybe, but I think the rest of the group can continue.

4. I have a different opinion. I have enjoyed some online courses.

5. That's one way of looking at it, but some people need cars.

6. Perhaps, although it may be busy because the food is good.

7. I'm afraid I disagree. I think the safest plan is better.

8. I don't think so. Some programmes can be educational.
