

SOFTENING DISAGREEMENT

B2-C1 | Functional language for challenging ideas tactfully

1 Useful phrase patterns

Use these phrases to disagree constructively while recognising another viewpoint.

I take your point, but ...

I take your point, but the evidence is limited.

I can see the logic. However, ...

I can see the logic. However, the risks remain.

I'm not sure that follows.

I'm not sure that follows from the data.

I would look at it differently.

I would look at it differently in this case.

That may be true to an extent, but ...

That may be true to an extent, but costs matter.

I wonder whether ...

I wonder whether that is the main issue.

I'm hesitant to agree because ...

I'm hesitant to agree because the facts are unclear.

Could there be another way of looking at this?

Could there be another way of looking at this?

2 Respond to the situations

Write one tactful response that challenges the idea in each situation.

1. A manager says the team should choose a supplier only because it is the cheapest. You think quality and reliability matter too.

2. A colleague says one negative customer review means the whole service is failing. You think more evidence is needed.

3. Someone says working from home is always better than working in an office. You think it depends on the job and person.

4. A team member wants to delay a project until every detail is perfect. You think some progress is better than waiting.

5. A friend says social media has no benefits at all. You think it can help people stay connected.

6. A colleague says a short meeting will solve a complex problem. You think more preparation may be needed.

7. A client wants to remove all support services to reduce costs. You think this may affect customer satisfaction.

8. Someone says a successful competitor can be copied exactly in a different market. You think the context may be different.

SOFTENING DISAGREEMENT

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 take your point, but quality and reliability should also be considered.

2. I'm not sure that follows. We would need more than one review to judge the service.

3. That may be true to an extent, but it depends on the job and the person.

4. I can see the logic. However, some progress may be better than waiting for perfection.

5. I would look at it differently. Social media can help people stay connected.

6. I'm hesitant to agree because a complex problem may need more preparation.

7. I wonder whether removing support services could damage customer satisfaction.

8. Could there be another way of looking at this? The market context may be different.
