

SOFTENING DISAGREEMENT

A2-B1 | Conversation practice examples for disagreeing politely

Conversation: Choosing a restaurant

Lucas	Let's book the rooftop restaurant for Mum's birthday. The view looks amazing.
Nora	I see what you mean, but the menu's quite expensive. There'll be eight of us.
Lucas	We could just order the main dishes. We don't need starters.
Nora	Maybe, but Mum doesn't like very formal places. She might enjoy somewhere more relaxed.
Lucas	I hadn't thought about that. What about the small Italian restaurant near the station?
Nora	That could work. She liked it when we went last year.
Lucas	Do you think it's too noisy for a birthday meal?
Nora	I don't think so. They have a quieter room at the back. Let's ask if we can book that.

Key phrases: I see what you mean, but / Maybe, but / I don't think so.

Conversation: Leaving early for a concert

Eva	The doors open at seven, so leaving here at half past six should be fine.
Finn	I'm not sure I agree. The bus can take forty minutes when there's traffic.
Eva	But the music doesn't start until eight. We'd still have time.
Finn	Perhaps, although there might be a queue to get in. I'd rather not feel rushed.
Eva	I don't really want to stand outside for an hour.
Finn	Neither do I. We could leave at six and get something to eat nearby if we're early.
Eva	All right. Shall we get the five past six bus?
Finn	Yes. Then we'll have time without getting there too early.

Key phrases: I'm not sure I agree. / Perhaps, although

Create your own conversation

Choose one prompt. Use at least two key phrases and include a natural response and follow-up.

Prompt 1: Disagree politely about a restaurant choice. Explain your concern and help find another option.

Prompt 2: Discuss when to leave for an event. Recognise your partner's concern while explaining your own.