



POLITE ENGLISH FREE ON-LINE COURSE

Lesson 4:

*Expressing your approval and
disapproval in a polite way.*

version without a key

WARM UP



THINK

“Whenever people agree with me I always feel I must be wrong.”



→ How do you understand the Oscar Wilde’s quote ?

→ Have you ever experienced something similar?



REMEMBER!

TO AGREE **WITH** SOMEONE **ON / ABOUT** SOMETHING

For example:

They agreed **with** me **about** the need of change.

Are we all agreed **on** this?



SPEAKING

Tell your friend/colleague about the following facts, using the verb “agree” with proper prepositions:

- *your boss gave his consent to shorter working hours*

Our boss ...

- *your boss has the same opinion with your colleague on the starting date of the project*

Our boss ...

- *your colleague shares your opinion on the positive changes at your workplace*



Podcast

LISTENING AND WATCHING

Watch the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SRvL9J4k490>

And answer the questions:

1. Which words does Ronnie advise not to use when giving your opinion?

2. Why shouldn't we use those words while giving our opinion?

3. In what situation can we use "for me"?

4. Which word gives you time to think about your opinion and expand on your opinion a bit more?

5. Why is the phrase *It was "interesting"* useful and why do we have to be careful with it?



MORE PHRASES FOR AGREEING AND DISAGREEING POLITELY

– I couldn't agree with you more.	– I'm afraid, I don't agree.
– Can't say I don't agree.	– I'm sorry, but I just can't agree.
– I'm with you on this.	– Sorry, but I really can't agree to that.
– I accept your point.	– Hmm, I wonder if it's true that....
– I'm 100% with you on this!	– Hmm, I'm not sure it can work like that.
– I agree with you to a point, but...	– Hmm, I'm not sure whether it's possible.
– I understand what you are saying, however...	– I don't think that's such a good idea. (NOT It's a bad idea.)
– I see what you're saying, but...	– I don't think I can agree with you. (NOT I disagree with you.)
– I agree up to a point, but	– I'm not sure it's the best idea. (NOT it's the worst idea!)

Source: <http://www.targettraining.eu/meeting-phrases-polite-diplomatic/>



TIPS FOR POLITE AND DIPLOMATIC LANGUAGE

1. Listen and be understanding
2. Avoid negative words - instead use positive words in a negative form
3. Say the magic word: Sorry
4. Use little words to soften your statements
5. Avoid 'finger pointing' statements with the word 'you'

Source: <http://www.londonschool.com/language-talk/language-tips/5-tips-for-polite-and-diplomatic-language/>



Watch this video to revise phrases for agreeing and disagreeing:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=amJ7ApXR0tw>



SPEAKING

Practice the polite expressions for agreeing and disagreeing by using the phrases from videos and exercises above, in the following situations. Express your opinion: agree or disagree.

We definitely have to make changes to this project. It isn't as requested by our Client.

There are a lot of things that need to be changed at our workplace.

I think our boss is really great! He is the best boss I've ever had!

I think dismissing people is not the best solution in this situation.

Jina has reached her sales target. She has been working very hard this season.

You have to make a lot of efforts to find a new Client.

I think, smoking outside our building should be prohibited.

I also think, that smoking in all public places should be banned.

I think this meeting was a complete disaster.

Oh, that was a very successful and interesting conference!



PAIR WORK

Work with your friend/colleague and practice the phrases in situations above. Try to keep the conversation going for a bit longer. Improvise.