



Focus: Expressing opinions, agreeing/disagreeing diplomatically, turn-taking, using softeners and conditionals

Sharing Opinions and Agreeing/Disagreeing in English



Introduction & Objectives

Sharing your ideas at work is important but so is knowing how to disagree without sounding rude. This lesson gives you confident, polite, and natural ways to express your views, while respecting others.

By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:

- Share personal or professional opinions respectfully
- Agree or disagree politely in a group setting
- Use grammar to soften directness
- Avoid confrontation and support collaborative dialogue

Warm-up Discussion:

How do you usually express disagreement in your native language?
Do you feel confident giving your opinion in a meeting in English?

Vocabulary – Polite Opinion Phrases

Discuss the following expressions with your tutor:

Expression	Usage
“In my view...”	Soft, formal
“I think it could be...”	Suggestive and open
“From my perspective...”	Personal angle
“It seems to me that...”	Thoughtful, careful tone
“I’m not sure I agree, but...”	Diplomatic disagreement

Task: Your tutor will read out the following context. Select which of the phrases from above are best to use:

A client suggests adding more features to a product, but you believe it could delay the launch. You need to disagree diplomatically.

Grammar – Using Modals for Tentative Opinions

Understanding the grammar rule:

Modals like ***might, could, may*** express uncertain or polite opinions, especially useful when giving suggestions or disagreement.

Examples

- “We might need to adjust the timeline.”
- “It could be more efficient to do it this way.”
- “That may not be the best option right now.”

Task: Transform the following direct opinions into modal-based sentences.

- “We can’t finish this project on time.”
- “This design is wrong.”
- “Your idea won’t work for our client.”
- “That plan is too expensive.”

Example: “That won’t work.” - “That might not work for our timeline.”



Listening Drill – Spot the Direct vs. Professional

Your tutor will read out two versions of a disagreement:

1. “No, that’s wrong.”
2. “I’m not sure I agree. Could we look at it another way?”

Task: Identify the tone difference and discuss which one is direct and which is more professional.

Then, rephrase the phrase below in a more professional tone:

“You didn’t send the file on time.”

Activity – Mini-Panel: Agree/Disagree

Your tutor will present the following work-based opinions:

- “We should reduce meeting times by 50%.”
- “We should switch to a 4-day workweek.”
- “All team updates should be sent by video instead of email.”
- “We should ban phones from meetings.”

Task: Responds with:

- An opinion phrase
- Agree/disagree language
- 1 reason

Grammar – Using “Although / While” for Balanced Statements

These structures help balance agreement with disagreement, which are very useful in corporate English.

Examples

- “Although I see your point, I think we need more data.”
- “While that approach is efficient, it may not scale well.”

Task: Have a go at creating 2 statements, balancing agreement and critique.

Activity – True or False Debate

Your tutor will give 3 statements:

1. “Remote teams are more productive.”
2. “Everyone should be on camera during meetings.”
3. “We should always reply to emails within 1 hour.”

Task: Give a balanced opinion to these statements using:

- An opinion phrase
- A modal (might/could)
- “Although” or “While”

Grammar – Agreeing with Positive and Negative Statements

We use **so/neither/nor** for short, fluent agreement.

Examples:

- “I think this design works well.” → “So do I, let’s confirm it.”
- “I don’t have access to that file.” → “Neither do I, shall I email the manager regarding this?”

Task: Your tutor will read out the statements below. Practice agreeing with your tutor using the terms from above, and give a follow up comment/suggestion:

- “I enjoy working in a team.”
- “I don’t usually work late on Fridays.”
- “I think our new manager has great ideas.”
- “I don’t have any meetings this afternoon.”

Activity – Rank the Responses

Have a go at reading out the disagreements from below:

- A. “That won’t work at all.”
- B. “I’m not sure that would be successful.”
- C. “Could we explore another option?”

Task: Explain which disagreement is the most professional by ranking them. Then, explain why you think that way.

Bonus: Rephrase the direct disagreement from the list, to a more professional tone.

Reading Task – Internal Chat Message

Have a go at reading the text below to your tutor:

- “Hey, I like your idea on splitting tasks. Is it alright if we just keep the deadline flexible instead of next week?”

Task:

- Identify the agreement
- Spot the disagreement
- Rephrase the message more formally (e.g., for email)

Grammar – Using “Would” and “Could” to Soften Opinions

These modals reduce the chance of sounding rude and too direct:

Examples

- “I would suggest starting later.”
- “It could be useful to test both options.”

Task: Have a go at rephrasing the following direct opinions, to sound more professional using modals:

- “Start the meeting at 8am.”
- “Test only the first option.”
- “We need to change the design completely.”

Roleplay – Decision-Making Meeting

Scenario: Imagine you're discussing where your next meeting should take place with your team. Your team is deciding between two platforms, Zoom and GoogleMeet.

Task: Imagine your tutor is part of the team. Create a dialogue for this scenario and include:

- Giving your opinion politely
- Acknowledging someone else's (tutors) view
- Disagreeing once, agreeing once

Activity – “Complete the Opinion”

Have a look at the following sentence starters:

- “In my view,...”
- “While I understand that,....”
- “I think we could...”

Task: Complete the sentences above using a work-related idea, from your job.



Pronunciation – Intonation in Professional Phrases

Repeat the following sentence starters after your tutor, to practise pronunciation and fluency:

- “I **might** be wrong, but...”
“**Would** it make sense to wait until next week?”

Task: Listen, repeat, and builds one complete sentence using a similar structure



Drill – Agree/Disagree

- Your tutor will read out the following statements:
- “We should shorten all meetings to 20 minutes.”
- “Everyone must work the same hours.”
- “We need to hire more staff immediately.”
- “Let’s cancel the monthly team lunch.”
- “All training should be online only.”

Task: Respond to these statements in 1 sentence. Including:

- Agreeing/disagreeing
- Give a reason
- Use “might” or “although”

Example: “We should all go back to the office.” → “While I see your point, hybrid might be better.”

Grammar – “It Might Be Better If...” for Suggesting Change

We use this polite format to give suggestions during disagreement.

Examples

- “**It might be better if** we checked with the client first.”
- “**It may be better if** we postponed the launch.”

Task: Give 2 suggestions from your real work context using this phrase.

Listening – Tone Comparison

Your tutor will read out the following statements:

- “No, that’s wrong.”
- “That might not work as planned.”
- “Could we revisit that idea after next week?”

Task: Identify the tone and professionalism of each statement and improve the statements that are too direct.

Bonus: → Then, build 1 response of their own