Do you agree?

Activity Type

Vocabulary Exercises: categorising, matching, writing sentences from prompts

Speaking Activity: offering and responding to opinions, communicative practice (pair work)

Focus

Agreeing and disagreeing

Giving explanations

Aim

To learn and practice phrases for agreeing and disagreeing with opinions.

Preparation

Make one copy of the two-page worksheet for each student.

Level

Intermediate (B1)

Time

35 minutes

Introduction

In this agreeing and disagreeing worksheet, students learn and practice phrases for agreeing and disagreeing with opinions.

Procedure

Give each student a copy of the two-page worksheet.

First, students categorise agreeing and disagreeing phrases according to their function and level of emphasis.

Exercise A - Answer key

Agree (Less) - Yes, I agree.
Agree (More) - That's right!, Absolutely!, Exactly!, I totally agree!
Partly Agree - I agree, but..., That's true, but..., I'm not sure about that.
Disagree (Less) - I don't agree., I disagree.
Disagree (More) - I totally disagree!, Absolutely not!

Students then match the agreeing and disagreeing expressions with explanations, paying attention to punctuation and sentence structure to make appropriate matches.

Exercise B - Possible answers

1. That's right! / Absolutely! / Exactly! / I totally agree!
2. I totally disagree! / Absolutely not!
3. Yes, I agree.
4. I'm not sure about that.
5. That's right! / Absolutely! / Exactly! / I totally agree!
6. I'm not sure about that.
7. I don't agree / I disagree
8. I totally disagree! / Absolutely not!
9. I agree, but... / That's true, but...
10. I agree, but... / That's true, but...

Next, students agree or disagree with opinions using the expressions and write an explanation to support each response.

After that, in pairs, students take turns reading each opinion and agreeing or disagreeing using their responses.

Finally, with their partner, students take turns giving opinions on topics and responding with a suitable expression followed by an explanation.

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A. Place the agreeing and disagreeing expressions in the table according to their function and level of emphasis.



That's right! I don't agree. I agree, but... Absolutely!
I totally disagree! That's true, but... Exactly! Absolutely not!
I'm not sure about that. Yes, I agree. I disagree. I totally agree!



	Agree	Partly Agree	Disagree
Less emphatic			
More emphatic			

When responding to an opinion, it is usually expected that you follow up with an explanation.

Example:

Jack: John Smith is the best candidate for president.

Jill: Absolutely not! Not only doesn't he have the necessary experience, he is unreliable!

B. Match an agreeing or disagreeing expression with an explanation below.

1. ..... It's my favourite place too. The food and service are excellent!
2. ..... There is no way that Chelsea is the best team. They lost to Watford!
3. ..... If I study in Canada, my English will definitely improve.
4. ..... A better solution would be to call out a technician to fix the problem.
5. ..... Teachers give students way too much homework!
6. ..... It's not because maths is too difficult. It's just too boring.
7. ..... If we go with this plan, we might lose too many customers.
8. ..... No one would hang that on their wall!
9. ..... we also need to consider other factors such as costs and time.
10. ..... even though iPhones are more expensive, they are very well-made and retain their value.

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C. Agree or disagree with the opinions using the expressions from Exercise A and then write an explanation to support each response. Then, in pairs, take turns reading an opinion and agreeing or disagreeing using your responses.

1. Summer is the best season.

Response: ..... Explanation: .....

.....

2. There is too much advertising on TV.

Response: ..... Explanation: .....

.....

3. I think football is the best sport in the world.

Response: ..... Explanation: .....

.....

4. In my opinion, dogs are better than cats.

Response: ..... Explanation: .....

.....

5. I believe that people waste too much time on the Internet.

Response: ..... Explanation: .....

.....

6. English is easy to learn.

Response: ..... Explanation: .....

.....

7. I think Star Wars is the best movie ever

Response: ..... Explanation: .....

.....

8. Time is more important than money.

Response: ..... Explanation: .....

.....

D. Now, with your partner, take turns giving opinions on the topics below and responding with a suitable expression followed by an explanation.

a recent TV series	a hobby	a fashion brand
a national cuisine	a tourist spot	a make of car
a type of job	an area of your city	a way to stay healthy

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