

Everyday Speaking Skills in English — Lesson 1

Giving Opinions and Agreeing / Disagreeing | B1 | Student Worksheet

Vocabulary

Each phrase is labelled by register: neutral (most situations), formal (professional / written), or informal (casual conversation).

Giving your opinion

Personally, I think... [neutral]	Introduces your own opinion, making clear it is a personal view rather than a fact.	<i>"Personally, I think remote working has been one of the best changes in recent years."</i>
From my perspective... [neutral]	Signals your particular viewpoint, often acknowledging others may differ.	<i>"From my perspective, the most important thing is trust between managers and employees."</i>
As far as I am concerned... [neutral]	States a confident, settled opinion on a matter.	<i>"As far as I am concerned, the hybrid model makes the most sense."</i>
I would argue that... [neutral]	Puts forward a position you are prepared to defend, slightly more formal than 'I think'.	<i>"I would argue that flexibility is more important than location."</i>
It is my view that... [formal]	A formal way of stating an opinion clearly, often used in professional or written contexts.	<i>"It is my view that companies should offer flexible arrangements to all staff."</i>
I tend to think that... [neutral]	A softened way of giving an opinion, suggesting your view is considered but not absolute.	<i>"I tend to think that people are more productive when they have some control over their schedule."</i>

Agreeing

I completely agree. [neutral]	Used to show full agreement with what someone has said.	<i>"I completely agree — the evidence strongly supports flexible working."</i>
You are absolutely right. [neutral]	Confirms that someone's point is correct, with emphasis.	<i>"You are absolutely right. The old model simply does not work for everyone."</i>
I could not agree more. [neutral]	An emphatic way of agreeing, meaning your agreement is total.	<i>"I could not agree more. It has been a huge improvement."</i>
That is a fair point. [neutral]	Acknowledges the validity of someone's argument, even if you do not fully agree.	<i>"That is a fair point. I had not considered the issue of home environment."</i>

I tend to agree. [neutral]	A softened form of agreement, suggesting you lean towards the same view but with some reservation.	<i>"I tend to agree, though I think there are exceptions."</i>
Absolutely. [informal]	A single-word response showing strong agreement, common in spoken English.	<i>"Absolutely. That is exactly what most companies should be doing."</i>

Disagreeing and partially disagreeing

I am not entirely convinced... [neutral]	A diplomatic way of expressing doubt or partial disagreement, without being blunt.	<i>"I am not entirely convinced that one approach works for all teams."</i>
I can see where you are coming from, but... [neutral]	Acknowledges the other person's viewpoint before politely disagreeing or qualifying it.	<i>"I can see where you are coming from, but I think the reality is more complicated."</i>
I am not sure I agree entirely. [neutral]	A careful, softened way of expressing disagreement, leaving room for discussion.	<i>"That is an interesting point, but I am not sure I agree entirely."</i>
I take your point, but... [neutral]	Acknowledges that the other person has made a valid point, then offers a counter-argument.	<i>"I take your point, but the data tells a different story."</i>
With respect, I think... [neutral]	A polite way of disagreeing, often used in professional or formal contexts.	<i>"With respect, I think that argument oversimplifies a complex issue."</i>
I agree to some extent, but... [neutral]	Signals partial agreement before introducing a qualification or counter-argument.	<i>"I agree to some extent, but there are situations where that does not apply."</i>

Exercise 1: Listening

Listen to the conversation between Dan and Priya. Notice how they use the phrases from the vocabulary section. Then answer the questions — some ask about attitude and implied meaning.

Conversation

Dan: Personally, I think remote working has been one of the best changes to come out of the last few years.

Priya: I can see where you are coming from, and I agree to some extent — but I am not entirely convinced it works for everyone.

Priya: From my perspective, a lot depends on your home situation.

Dan: That is a fair point. But surely the answer is not to go back to five days in an office?

Priya: Absolutely not. As far as I am concerned, the hybrid model makes the most sense.

Dan: I tend to agree. Though I would argue that companies should let individuals decide how many days they come in.

Priya: That is an interesting point, but I am not sure I agree entirely. Some teams genuinely need face-to-face time.

Dan: I take your point. But with respect, I think that says more about management than remote working itself.

Priya: You might be right. I do not think there is a one-size-fits-all answer.

Dan: On that we completely agree. It is a much more nuanced conversation than most companies are having.

Circle the correct answer.

1. What is Dan's overall view on remote working?

a) He thinks it has been largely positive. b) He thinks it creates too many problems. c) He prefers working in an office. d) He thinks companies should ban it.

2. When Priya says she is 'not entirely convinced it works for everyone', what does she mean?

a) She disagrees completely. b) She thinks it is fine for some people but not all. c) She has never tried it herself. d) She thinks managers cannot be trusted to allow it.

3. What does Priya say the hybrid model offers?

a) More control for managers b) The best of both office and home working c) A solution to poor management d) A way of avoiding commuting entirely

4. What is Dan's position on how many days employees should come into the office?

a) All employees should come in five days a week. b) Companies should impose a fixed number. c) Individuals should be able to decide for themselves. d) Teams should vote on the number of office days.

5. Why does Priya disagree with Dan's position on individual choice?

a) It is too expensive to implement. b) Some teams need face-to-face time and some people will always choose to stay home. c) Remote working reduces productivity. d) Managers should have no say in the matter.

6. What does Dan's phrase 'with respect, I think' suggest about his attitude?

a) He is being sarcastic. b) He is disagreeing politely while still maintaining his position. c) He fully agrees with Priya. d) He is uncertain about his own argument.

Exercise 2: Multiple Choice

Choose the correct phrase to complete each sentence.

1. ____, I think companies that insist on five days in the office are missing the point.

a) Personally b) Absolutely c) I take your point d) That is a fair point

2. ____ you are coming from, but I think the research supports the opposite conclusion.

a) As far as I am concerned b) I can see where c) With respect d) I tend to agree

3. That is an interesting argument. ____ a fair point, and it made me reconsider my position.

a) I tend to agree. b) I could not agree more. c) That is d) I would argue

4. ____ I am concerned, the most important factor is trust between colleagues.

a) I take your point b) As far as c) From my perspective d) I am not entirely convinced

5. ____ that the current system is unfair, even if I understand why it was introduced.

a) I tend to agree b) I am not sure I agree c) With respect, I think d) I would argue

6. I ____ the flexibility argument, but I think we are ignoring the impact on team culture.

a) completely agree with b) am not entirely convinced by c) take your point about d) tend to agree on

7. She ____ that working from home suits her, but she acknowledges it is not ideal for everyone.

a) tends to think b) is not entirely convinced c) takes the point d) can see where

8. ____ we can find a solution that works for both sides if we approach this conversation differently.

a) I am not sure I agree b) I tend to think c) I take your point d) As far as I am concerned

Exercise 3: Matching

Match each phrase (A) to its function or meaning (B). Write the correct number on the line.

A - Phrase	B - Function / Meaning
1. Personally, I think... ____	8. A polite way of disagreeing, often used in professional or formal contexts
2. As far as I am concerned... ____	3. Acknowledges someone's viewpoint before politely disagreeing or qualifying it
3. I can see where you are coming from, but... ____	6. An emphatic expression of total agreement
4. I am not entirely convinced... ____	2. States a confident, settled opinion on a matter
5. I take your point, but... ____	7. Acknowledges the validity of someone's argument without necessarily fully agreeing
6. I could not agree more. ____	5. Acknowledges a valid argument before offering a counter-argument
7. That is a fair point. ____	1. Introduces your own opinion, making clear it is a personal view rather than a fact
8. With respect, I think... ____	4. Expresses doubt or partial disagreement in a diplomatic way

Exercise 4: Gap Fill

Choose the correct phrase from the box to begin each sentence.

Phrase Bank: From my perspective | I tend to agree | I am not entirely convinced | With respect, I think | I can see where you are coming from | I could not agree more | I would argue that | I take your point

1. ____, the best solution is one that gives employees genuine choice.

2. ____ with your analysis, though I think the timescale you suggest is too optimistic.

3. ____ that the data supports that conclusion. Can you say more about your sources?

4. ____ you are overlooking one of the most important factors in this situation.
5. ____ , but the evidence really does point in the other direction.
6. ____ . This is exactly the kind of change the industry has needed for years.
7. ____ the current approach is unsustainable in the long run, even if it works in the short term.
8. ____ , but I still think we need to consider the wider implications before making a decision.

Exercise 5: Choose the Right Phrase

Each question gives you a sentence that is too blunt, too informal, or otherwise unsuitable for the context described. Choose the rewrite that is most appropriate.

1. Original: "You're wrong — working from home is always better than being in an office."

Context: You are in a professional meeting. This sounds too blunt and absolute.

Which rewrite is most appropriate for this context?

- a) Absolutely — working from home is always better, and you are wrong to disagree. b) I am not entirely convinced that working from home is always better than being in an office. c) From my perspective, you are completely wrong about this, to be honest. d) I would argue that, you know, it is probably better at home most of the time.

2. Original: "That's a terrible idea and it would never work."

Context: A colleague has just suggested a new approach in a team meeting. This sounds dismissive and rude.

Which rewrite is most appropriate for this context?

- a) I can see where you are coming from, but I am not sure it would work in practice. b) Absolutely — I could not agree more that it would never work. c) Personally, I think that is a terrible idea, to be completely honest. d) With respect, you are wrong and this would definitely not work.

3. Original: "Yeah, totally agree, that's exactly it."

Context: You are speaking in a formal presentation to senior stakeholders. This is too casual.

Which rewrite is most appropriate for this context?

- a) I tend to agree, sort of, yes, that is basically what I mean. b) Absolutely, yeah — could not have said it better myself. c) That is a fair point, I guess, in a general kind of way. d) I could not agree more — that captures the issue precisely.

4. Original: "I think this is probably right, maybe."

Context: You are making a case to your manager. This sounds uncertain and unconvincing.

Which rewrite is most appropriate for this context?

- a) It is my view that this is the right approach. b) I tend to think this is probably more or less right, to some extent. c) Personally, I think you could say this might be right in some cases. d) I am not entirely convinced this is right, but maybe it is.

5. Original: "You've got a point, but I still think I'm right."

Context: You are in a professional discussion with a senior colleague. This sounds slightly defensive and informal.

Which rewrite is most appropriate for this context?

- a) I take your point, but from my perspective the evidence still supports my original position. b) You've made a fair point, but honestly I still reckon I am right about this. c) That is a fair point, I suppose, but I am not changing my mind. d) I agree to some extent, I guess, but I still think what I said.

6. Original: "In my personal opinion, I personally feel that, from where I stand, flexibility matters a lot."

Context: This is repetitive and confused. You need to express the same idea clearly and naturally.

Which rewrite is most appropriate for this context?

- a) Personally speaking, from my own personal viewpoint, I tend to feel that flexibility is quite important. b) As far as I am concerned, flexibility is the key issue here. c) I would say, in my view, that flexibility matters, from my perspective. d) I feel like flexibility is probably pretty important, personally speaking.

7. Original: "I disagree."

Context: A colleague has made a long, carefully argued point in a meeting. This response sounds abrupt and dismissive.

Which rewrite is most appropriate for this context?

a) No. b) I am not sure I agree entirely — there are a few points I would question. c) I completely disagree with everything you just said. d) That is wrong, if I am being honest.

8. Original: "Fine, you're right."

Context: In a formal debate you have been persuaded by the other side's argument. This sounds reluctant and grudging.

Which rewrite is most appropriate for this context?

a) You are absolutely right — I think you have made a compelling case. b) OK fine, I suppose you might be right, sort of. c) I guess I cannot argue with that, I suppose. d) Alright then, have it your way.

Exercise 6: Error Identification

Each sentence contains one error, or no error at all. Underline the error and write a correction, or write "No error".

1. Personally, I think that remote working have improved my quality of life significantly.

Correction / No error: _____

2. I can see where you are coming from, but I do not entirely share your conclusion.

Correction / No error: _____

3. As far as I am concern, the proposal needs significant revision before it can proceed.

Correction / No error: _____

4. I could not agree more with your analysis of the current situation.

Correction / No error: _____

5. With respect, I think you are oversimplify a genuinely complex issue.

Correction / No error: _____

6. That is a fair point, and I take on board what you are saying.

Correction / No error: _____

7. I am not entirely convinced by the argument that flexibility always leads to greater productivity.

Correction / No error: _____

8. From my perspective, this is one of the more important issue we need to address.

Correction / No error: _____

Exercise 7: Complete the Dialogue

Choose the correct phrase from the box to complete each turn in the conversation.

Phrase Bank: Personally, I think | I can see where you are coming from | From my perspective | That is a fair point | I am not entirely convinced | I take your point | As far as I am concerned | I could not agree more

1. Leo: ____, the way companies handled the return to office was really badly managed.

2. Mara: ____, and the communication was definitely poor.

3. Leo: ____, the problem is structural.

4. Mara: ____ . The lack of explanation was a real failure.
5. Leo: ____ that fully remote works for every type of role.
6. Mara: ____ , but I think there is also a question of what we mean by productivity.
7. Leo: ____ , if you are hitting your targets, it should not matter where you are sitting.
8. Mara: ____ . That is exactly the conversation we should have been having from the start.

TEACHER ANSWER KEY

Do Not Distribute to Students

Everyday Speaking Skills — Lesson 1: Giving Opinions and Agreeing / Disagreeing | B1

Exercise 1: Listening

1. What is Dan's overall view on remote working?

Answer: He thinks it has been largely positive.

2. When Priya says she is 'not entirely convinced it works for everyone', what does she mean?

Answer: She thinks it is fine for some people but not all.

3. What does Priya say the hybrid model offers?

Answer: The best of both office and home working

4. What is Dan's position on how many days employees should come into the office?

Answer: Individuals should be able to decide for themselves.

5. Why does Priya disagree with Dan's position on individual choice?

Answer: Some teams need face-to-face time and some people will always choose to stay home.

6. What does Dan's phrase 'with respect, I think' suggest about his attitude?

Answer: He is disagreeing politely while still maintaining his position.

Exercise 2: Multiple Choice

1. ____, I think companies that insist on five days in the office are missing the point.

Answer: Personally

2. ____ you are coming from, but I think the research supports the opposite conclusion.

Answer: I can see where

3. That is an interesting argument. ____ a fair point, and it made me reconsider my position.

Answer: That is

4. ____ I am concerned, the most important factor is trust between colleagues.

Answer: As far as

5. ____ that the current system is unfair, even if I understand why it was introduced.

Answer: I would argue

6. I ____ the flexibility argument, but I think we are ignoring the impact on team culture.

Answer: take your point about

7. She ____ that working from home suits her, but she acknowledges it is not ideal for everyone.

Answer: tends to think

8. ____ we can find a solution that works for both sides if we approach this conversation differently.

Answer: I tend to think

Exercise 3: Matching

1. Personally, I think... -> 1

Introduces your own opinion, making clear it is a personal view rather than a fact

2. As far as I am concerned... -> 2

States a confident, settled opinion on a matter

3. I can see where you are coming from, but... -> 3

Acknowledges someone's viewpoint before politely disagreeing or qualifying it

4. I am not entirely convinced... -> 4

Expresses doubt or partial disagreement in a diplomatic way

5. I take your point, but... -> 5

Acknowledges a valid argument before offering a counter-argument

6. I could not agree more. -> 6

An emphatic expression of total agreement

7. That is a fair point. -> 7

Acknowledges the validity of someone's argument without necessarily fully agreeing

8. With respect, I think... -> 8

A polite way of disagreeing, often used in professional or formal contexts

Exercise 4: Gap Fill

1. ____, the best solution is one that gives employees genuine choice.

Answer: From my perspective

2. ____ with your analysis, though I think the timescale you suggest is too optimistic.

Answer: I tend to agree

3. ____ that the data supports that conclusion. Can you say more about your sources?

Answer: I am not entirely convinced

4. ____ you are overlooking one of the most important factors in this situation.

Answer: With respect, I think

5. ____, but the evidence really does point in the other direction.

Answer: I can see where you are coming from

6. ____ . This is exactly the kind of change the industry has needed for years.

Answer: I could not agree more

7. ____ the current approach is unsustainable in the long run, even if it works in the short term.

Answer: I would argue that

8. ____, but I still think we need to consider the wider implications before making a decision.

Answer: I take your point

Exercise 5: Choose the Right Phrase

1. Original: "You're wrong — working from home is always better than being in an office."

Answer: I am not entirely convinced that working from home is always better than being in an office.

Why: This uses a diplomatic disagreement phrase that softens the position and avoids sounding aggressive or absolute.

2. Original: "That's a terrible idea and it would never work."

Answer: I can see where you are coming from, but I am not sure it would work in practice.

Why: This acknowledges the colleague's idea before raising doubts — appropriate when someone has just made a suggestion.

3. Original: "Yeah, totally agree, that's exactly it."

Answer: I could not agree more — that captures the issue precisely.

Why: This is emphatic agreement expressed in neutral, professional language — appropriate for a formal presentation.

4. Original: "I think this is probably right, maybe."

Answer: It is my view that this is the right approach.

Why: This is the most authoritative and clear way to state your position — suitable for making a confident case.

5. Original: "You've got a point, but I still think I'm right."

Answer: I take your point, but from my perspective the evidence still supports my original position.

Why: This uses two appropriate phrases — acknowledging the point and restating your view — in a professional and measured way.

6. Original: "In my personal opinion, I personally feel that, from where I stand, flexibility matters a lot."

Answer: As far as I am concerned, flexibility is the key issue here.

Why: This expresses the opinion clearly and confidently in a single phrase, without repetition or unnecessary hedging.

7. Original: "I disagree."

Answer: I am not sure I agree entirely — there are a few points I would question.

Why: This is a softened disagreement that invites further discussion rather than shutting it down.

8. Original: "Fine, you're right."

Answer: You are absolutely right — I think you have made a compelling case.

Why: This concedes gracefully and professionally — appropriate for a formal debate.

Exercise 6: Error Identification

1. Personally, I think that remote working have improved my quality of life significantly.

Error: "have" -> "has" | Subject-verb agreement error — remote working is singular, so the verb should be has, not have.

2. I can see where you are coming from, but I do not entirely share your conclusion.

Answer: No error.

3. As far as I am concern, the proposal needs significant revision before it can proceed.

Error: "concern," -> "concerned" | Wrong form — the correct form is concerned, not concern, in the phrase as far as I am concerned.

4. I could not agree more with your analysis of the current situation.

Answer: No error.

5. With respect, I think you are oversimplify a genuinely complex issue.

Error: "oversimplify" -> "oversimplifying" | Wrong verb form — after are, the verb should be in the -ing form: oversimplifying, not oversimplify.

6. That is a fair point, and I take on board what you are saying.

Answer: No error.

7. I am not entirely convinced by the argument that flexibility always leads to greater productivity.

Answer: No error.

8. From my perspective, this is one of the more important issue we need to address.

Error: "issue" -> "issues" | Number error — issue should be issues because it follows one of the more important, which requires a plural noun.

Exercise 7: Complete the Dialogue

1. Leo: ____, the way companies handled the return to office was really badly managed.

Answer: Personally, I think

2. Mara: ____, and the communication was definitely poor.

Answer: I can see where you are coming from

3. Leo: ____, the problem is structural.

Answer: From my perspective

4. Mara: ____ . The lack of explanation was a real failure.

Answer: That is a fair point

5. Leo: ____ that fully remote works for every type of role.

Answer: I am not entirely convinced

6. Mara: ____, but I think there is also a question of what we mean by productivity.

Answer: I take your point

7. Leo: ____, if you are hitting your targets, it should not matter where you are sitting.

Answer: As far as I am concerned

8. Mara: ____ . That is exactly the conversation we should have been having from the start.

Answer: I could not agree more