

EXPRESSING OPINIONS & STRUCTURED DEBATING

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REAL ENGLISH – Useful phrases

Giving opinions: As far as I'm concerned… / From my point of view… / I'd say that…

Hedging: It seems to me that… / I'm not entirely sure, but… / It could be argued that…

Agreeing: That's a good point. / I completely agree. / You're right about that.

Disagreeing politely: I see what you mean, but… / I'm not so sure about that. / That's one way of looking at it, however…

Conceding: That's true, but… / I agree up to a point… / You may be right about X, but…

1. Controlled practice

Take these simple opinions and make them more natural and polite using the phrases above:

- Social media is bad for young people.
- University should be free.
- People watch too much TV.

2. Short opinion exchange

Choose one topic and talk for 3 minutes:

- Is it better to live in a big city or a small town?
- Should children get homework every day?

  Focus on using at least three of the phrases above.

3. Clarifying & responding

Practise these follow-up moves:

- "What exactly do you mean by…?"
- "Can you give me an example?"
- "So you're saying that…?"

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