

Needs analysis discussion questions and opinions phrases

Choose one of the questions below to ask your partner, asking any questions in brackets () to make them speak more if you need to. After giving your own opinion on what they say, change roles and answer the question they ask you.

- How important is English to your future?
- Do you feel positive or negative about studying English? (Why do you feel that way?)
- What parts of your English do you most need to improve?
- What are the most difficult and easiest parts of English?
- What's the best way of learning a foreign language?
- What have been the good and bad points of previous English courses you have taken?
- What do you think about using the internet or computer games as a way of improving your English?
- Do you think studying for an English language test helps or hinders?
- How important is understanding other non-native English speakers? (What can you do to help with that?)
- Which are the most difficult nationalities to understand? (Why do you think that is?)
- Have you ever tried any self-study books for learning English? (Were they useful or not?)
- What do you think about English language TV programmes and radio programmes in your country as a way of learning the language? (Why do you have that opinion?)
- What's more important, accuracy or fluency?
- At your level, is it better to read and listen to simplified English, or should you stick to things for native speakers?

Tell the class some things that you agreed on and see whether they also felt the same way.

What language could you use for giving those opinions?

Softening a strongly held or controversial opinion	Warning people that a strong or controversial opinion is coming	Other language for giving a strongly held opinion
An opinion which isn't strongly held or strongly stated	Mentioning your experience	Other language for giving opinions



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Find more phrases for the boxes above in the sentences below. Some could go into more than one box. Did you put any language in the boxes that is not below?

To be frank,
Frankly,
In my honest opinion,

Not everyone will agree with me, but I think that
This might be a bit controversial but I would say that
In my humble opinion,
This is just my opinion, but I think that
In my personal opinion,
Personally, I think that

I would imagine that
With some reservations, I'd say that
I would guess that
As far as I know,

In my experience,
From personal experience, I would say that
I have found that
Experience has shown me that

If you want my opinion, I'd say that
If you ask me,
The way I see it,
I would say that
As far as I'm concerned,

I strongly believe that
I really think that
I strongly approve of the idea of/ that...
I'm convinced that
I'm absolutely certain that
I'm positive that
Without a doubt,



Answer key

Softening a strongly held or controversial opinion

Not everyone will agree with me, but I think that
This might be a bit controversial but I would say that
In my humble opinion,
This is just my opinion, but I think that
In my personal opinion,
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Warning people that a strong or controversial opinion is coming

To be frank,
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Other language for giving a strongly held opinion

I strongly believe that
I really think that
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An opinion which isn't strongly held or strongly stated

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Mentioning your experience

In my experience,
From personal experience, I would say that
I have found that
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Other language for giving opinions

If you want my opinion, I'd say that
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