



### **Strong or Weak Opinions**

*Without looking at the list below, listen to your teacher and raise the Strong or Weak card that you have been given depending on which meaning you think each phrase you hear has.*

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*Label the sections below with S for Strong and W for Weak.*

(I've never heard such) (complete and utter) rubbish.

(That's utterly) ridiculous.

Any idiot can see that...

Are you crazy?! Are you out of your mind?

Are you joking?! Are you kidding?! Are you pulling my leg?

Far from it.

To be perfectly frank,...

I can't accept that.

As far as I know,...

Fair enough.

I agree up to a point, but...

I can accept that.

I couldn't agree with you more.

I really don't think so.

I strongly believe that...

I'd definitely say that...

I'd go even further and say...

I'm (absolutely) certain that...

I'm (entirely) convinced that...

I'm positive that...

In your dreams!/ You're living in a dream world.

Nonsense.

Quite right.

Quite the opposite.

I don't really think so.

I might change my mind later, but...

I wouldn't quite put it that way myself.

I'm fairly confident that...

I'm no expert (on this), but...

I'm not sure I'm the right person to ask, but...

My initial reaction is...



So true, so true.  
That answers all my questions.  
That's clearly not the case.  
That's exactly the way I see it.

Off the top of my head, ...  
That view is somewhat old fashioned.  
To the best of my knowledge, ...

That's just the point I was trying to make.  
That's just what I was going to say.  
That's not the case at all./ That's quite simply not the case.  
There is no way on earth I can accept that.

Well, you know more about this than me, but ...  
With some reservations, I'm going to accept that.  
You could say that.

Without (a shadow of) a doubt, ...  
You can say that again.  
You can't say that.

You cannot be serious./ Seriously?  
You took the words right out of my mouth.  
Your argument is full of holes. For example, .../ The first of many problems with that argument is ...

*Test each other in small groups.*

*Underline words above that are generally used to make opinions stronger or weaker.*

*Label the sections below with Strong or Weak in the same way as above.*

bit  
fair/ fairly  
guess  
humble/ humbly

absolute/ absolutely  
all  
any/ not any  
at all

can't  
certain/ certainly  
clear/ clearly  
complete/ completely



imagine  
little  
may  
might

definite/ definitely  
entire/ entirely  
exact/ exactly  
far/ further

frank/ frankly/ honest/ honestly  
I do...  
lot  
never

obvious/ obviously  
perfect/ perfectly  
plain/ plainly  
positive/ positively

look/ seem/ sound  
some/ somewhat  
suppose

precisely  
really (not)  
serious/ seriously  
simple/ simply

so  
strongly  
sure/ surely  
utter/ utterly

vast  
very  
wholehearted

not much  
not really  
not yet  
nugget

okay  
possible/ possibly  
reckon

*Choose one of the topics below. Start with one of you arguing strongly for and one of you arguing strongly against and try to slowly move together in some way, e.g. by one of you being convinced or by finding a compromise position.*

- Raising VAT (= consumption tax).
- Changing the starting date of universities
- The government certifying restaurants abroad serving authentic food from your country.
- Increasing legal immigration.
- Teaching other school subjects in English.
- Starting school younger.
- A single national university entrance test.
- Move to teaching more Chinese.
- More financial incentives to have children.
- A legal minimum number of female MPs.
- A legal minimum number of female board members in large companies.
- Introducing/ Scrapping nuclear power.
- Banning anonymous online comments.
- "Media" as a school subject.
- (More) government money for the making of movies
- More emphasis on teaching creativity
- Introducing/ Scrapping the death penalty



**Cards for students to hold up**

*Copy and cut out one of each card per student*

**Strong**

**Weak**

**Strong**

**Weak**

**Strong**

**Weak**