

Unit 4: Mental Processes and Communication: Thinking and Feelings

How to express your opinions in English

Common phrases for expressing general opinions

- *I think...*
- *I believe...*
- *I feel...*
- *In my opinion...*
- *I would say that...*
- *In my experience...*
- *As far as I'm concerned...*
- *I'm absolutely convinced...*
- *Speaking for myself...*
- *Personally, I think...*
- *I'd say that...*
- *I'd suggest that...*
- *I'd like to point out that...*
- *What I mean is...*
- *It's obvious to me...*

Add strength when you need to make the statement stronger. You can do it by adding an adverb or adjective. For example:

- *I really think...*
- *I strongly believe...*
- *I truly feel...*
- *In my honest opinion...*
- *I'm absolutely convinced that...*
- *I'm sure that...*
- *I have no doubt that...*
- *There's no doubt in my mind that...*

Also give reasons to add strength to the claim or your statement. For example:

In my honest opinion, Bangkok has the best street food. I have never seen more choices of what to eat – and everything I've tried has been delicious!

Formal phrases

Here are a few phrases that are more common in **formal situations**. You might, for example, hear one of these at a business meeting or a conference, or in a formal paper:

- *From my point of view...*
- *From my perspective...*
- *In my view...*
- *It seems to me that...*

For example: *In my view, golf is just a game and not a sport.*

Even though phrases like “In my view...” are usually more formal than ones like “I think,” there is no rule for where or when you can use them. It’s often a matter of personal choice.

Asking for opinions

You should also learn how to ask opinions of others. Often, when we express an opinion or suggestion, it’s a good idea to ask other people for their opinion too. Phrases below help show our desire to hear from others:

- *What do you think of...?*
- *What are your thoughts on...?*
- *How do you feel about...?*
- *What’s your opinion on...?*

You can use these questions in many kinds of situations. You might ask, for instance:

What’s your opinion on Football Club Barcelona?

How do you feel about the new art director?

What are your thoughts on tonight’s activities?

Agreeing and disagreeing

Agreeing is the easy part. To show agreement, you can use short, clear statements. For example, a friend says, “I think summer is way more fun than winter!” You might show you agree by giving one of these responses:

- *So do I.*
- *Me too.*
- *Definitely.*
- *I agree.*
- *I couldn’t agree more.*

Please note that, “agree” is a verb in English, so be careful not to say, “I am agree” for the present **tense** verb.

You can also give reasons for your agreement. For example:

I completely agree! I couldn’t live without beach days and outdoor festivals.

But what if a person says something you *disagree* with?

With close friends or family, we can use informal, direct phrases to say we disagree. You might say something like:

- *I disagree!*
- *I don’t agree.*
- *Yeah, but...*

For example: *Yeah, but winter has just as many fun things to do. You just have to dress warmly.*

For situations like in discussions of more serious subjects, or in professional situations, these phrases can be too direct. It is better you use **more polite phrases**. Suppose people at work or school are sharing opinions about politics or religious beliefs or something equally sensitive. So, instead of saying “I totally disagree!” or “You’re wrong!” you might say one of these:

- *I’m not sure I agree with you on...*
- *I’m sorry but I don’t agree.*
- *I’m afraid I disagree.*

Another common way to disagree politely is to tell the person you respect their opinion before sharing your own. Try phrases like these:

- *I see what you’re saying but...*
- *You have a point there but...*
- *I understand where you’re coming from but...*

For example, the following is an example conversation

- A: *We’re paying sky-high rents and other costs. Our business would save a lot of money by changing cities.*
- B: *I see what you’re saying but, in my view, now is not the right time to leave Los Angeles. The city offers too many incentives.*

Practice

Read the following excerpts and try using the phrases you have learned to express your opinion on the excerpt.

Excerpt 1

Some people say that watching and listening to films and TV in English can really help improve English communication skill.

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Excerpt 2

Everyone wants to ride elephants in Thailand, including me. Just imagine how incredible it would be to sit atop a massive 9 foot tall, 4-ton beast while lumbering your way through deep rivers and pristine jungle.

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Excerpt 3

Train travel in Thailand is usually an enjoyable experience to be remembered.

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Excerpt 4

It is rightly said that majority street food is unhygienic but some restaurant's food is also unhygienic.

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Excerpt 5

Effects from Coronavirus situation give us a lesson that our tourism can't rely on any single market.

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Assignment (10 marks) (March 10, 2020)

Find your interest and express your opinions on it in writing format by using appropriate phrases. Then, prepare for an oral test.