Some useful expressions for conversation and debate in English

Sometimes you may feel that you don’t know how to start your speech, how to express your views, or how to connect what you want to say to what has been said before. These lists should provide you with suggestions to enrich your conversational resources. You don’t have to use them all: you can select the ones that best suit the situation and practice them for a while in order to learn about their use. You can then add new ones and thus extend your vocabulary.

# Expressing a personal opinion

* In my opinion, …
* I feel that…
* I would say that…
* It seems to me that…
* Speaking personally…
* As I see it…
* Well, if you ask me…
* In my view…
* (Personally,) I think/believe/suppose that…
* From my perspective/ viewpoint/point of view …
* What I mean is…
* As far as I’m concerned…
* I’d like to point out that…
* The point is that…
* My impression is that…
* In my experience…
* I’d suggest that…
* Personally speaking…
* To my mind, …
* I have no doubt that …
* I’m absolutely convinced…
* As far as I understand/know…
* As for me …
* I might be wrong but…
* I tend to think that…

# Giving reasons

* I tell you all this because …
* I base my argument on …

# Expressing personal doubt

* I’m not sure if …
* I’m not convinced that…
* I doubt that …

# Expressing support and agreement

N.b. “You” can be replaced with other interlocutors in the third person (e.g. He/she/Paul/they are right; I agree with him/her/Paul/them).

* You took the words right out of my mouth.
* That’s a very important point.
* You are right.
* I strongly agree with you.
* I agree with you.
* You’re quite right.
* I agree with you 100 percent.
* I agree with you entirely.
* I completely / absolutely/totally agree with you.
* I couldn’t agree with you more.
* I was just going to say that.
* That’s exactly what I think.
* I feel the same.
* I hold the same opinion.
* It is true.
* Just so!
* (There is) no doubt about it.
* I guess/suppose/think so.
* I have come to the same conclusion.
* I have no objection.
* I have to side with you on this one/on this point.
* I share your view.
* I (simply) must agree with that.
* I think you might be right about that.
* That’s interesting.

# Expressing partial agreement

You can also agree but with reservation especially when there is a doubt or feeling of not being able to accept something completely.

* It is only partly true that…
* That’s true, but…
* I can agree with that only with reservations.
* That seems obvious, but…
* That is not necessarily so.
* It is not as simple as it seems.
* I agree with you in principle, but…
* I agree with you in part, but…
* I agree up to a point, but….
* Well, you could be right, but …
* We don’t seem to be in complete agreement…
* Well, I don’t quite agree with you…

# Expressing disagreement

* I (very much) doubt whether…
* I am of a different opinion because …
* I can’t/ couldn’t go along with that….
* I cannot agree with this idea.
* I cannot share this / that / the view.
* I completely disagree…
* I don’t really agree with that idea…
* I don’t think so….
* I don’t agree with you.
* I find that very difficult to accept….
* I have my own thoughts about that.
* I see your point, but….
* I still have my doubts…
* I’m afraid I disagree….
* I’m sorry, but I disagree.
* I’m sorry but I’m of a different opinion.
* I’m afraid I can’t agree with you.
* I’m not sure about that …
* That’s not always true…
* That’s one way of looking at it; however,….
* The problem is that…
* There is no way I could agree with that…
* We don’t seem to agree here…
* Well, I see things rather differently….
* With all due respect, …
* You could say that; however,…

# Stating something as a fact

* Everyone knows that …
* It is normally accepted that …
* There can be no doubt that …
* As everybody knows …
* Nobody will deny that …

# Enumeration of points

* First of all, …
* First …, second …, third …
* Moreover …
* In addition to that …
* Furthermore …
* Another example of this point is that …

# Summing up, drawing conclusions

* Finally …
* The (obvious) conclusion is (that)…
* Summing up, …
* In conclusion, we can say that …
* To cut a long story short, …

# “Fillers” in conversation

* Um… (=hesitation)
* Ok / Alright, … (dunque, allora, ok)
* You know … (sai/sapete/sì)
* So … (dunque, allora)
* Well, … (allora)

# Other useful expressions

* By the way … (ad ogni modo)
* What I mean is/ I mean … (voglio dire)
* Anyway … (comunque)