

Expressing opinions, agreement and disagreement

USEFUL EXPRESSIONS TO EXPRESS YOUR OPINION

In my eyes, ...

To my mind, ...

As far as I am concerned, ...

Speaking personally, ...

From my point of view, ...

As for me / As to me, ...

My view / opinion / belief / impression / conviction is...

I hold the view that ...

I would say that ...

It seems to me that ...

I am of the opinion that ...

My impression is that ...

I am under the impression that ...

It is my impression that ...

I have the feeling that ...

My own feeling on the subject is that ...

I have no doubt that ...

I am sure / I am certain that ...

I think / consider / find / feel / suppose / presume / assume that ...

I hold the opinion that ...

I dare say that ...

I guess that ...

I bet that

I gather that ...

It goes without saying that ...

Needless to say that...

USEFUL WORDS TO EXPRESS YOUR AGREEMENT

I agree with you / him ...

I share your view.

I think so. / I really think so.

(The author / the narrator / the protagonist / etc.) is right

He is quite right / absolutely right

He may be right.

I have no objection.

I approve of it.

I have come to the same conclusion

I hold the same opinion.

We are of one mind / of the same mind on that question.

I am at one with him on that point.

That is right. / That's just it !

Fair enough !

Quite so ! / Just so !

Yes of course !

USEFUL WORDS TO EXPRESS YOUR DISAGREEMENT

I don't agree. / I disagree.

I don't think so.

You are / he is wrong.

I think otherwise.

I don't think that's quite right.

I don't agree with you/him.

I don't agree with what you say.

I am afraid that is not quite true.

I take a different view.

I don't share his/her/your view.

This argument does not hold water.

That doesn't make any sense.

Not at all ! / Nonsense ! / Rubbish !

He's off his head!

Examples:

I think if you work hard you'll do very well in the exam.

It'll be cheaper to take the plane, I reckon.

In my view, it was a big mistake not to try to buy the company last year.

In my opinion, everyone should have some understanding of science.
Everyone should, **in my opinion**, have some understanding of science.

It seems to me that John's plans for the website are very convincing.

All things considered, I think we were wise to cancel our flights.

If you ask me, both Paul and Simon are being extremely immature.

To be honest/To tell you the truth/To be frank, I thought the show was pretty awful.

Personally, I think you should apologize to your brother.

To my mind, the way she behaved was inconsiderate.

As far as I'm concerned, tennis is a much more interesting sport than football.

More phrases:

Another reason why so many people have such a poor understanding of science is, **I believe**, the lack of adequate funding for science in schools.

Smith argues that science is separate from culture. **My own view is that** science belongs with literature, art, philosophy and religion as an integral part of our culture.

In this writer's opinion, the more the public know about science, the less they will fear and distrust it.

From my point of view, driving is not a good option. I get very tired if I drive more than about two hours.

I spent two months working in England. **From my point of view**, that was the easiest way to learn English. (How the speaker is personally affected by something)

In my opinion/In my view, in 100 years' time people will still be wearing jeans.

In my view, everyone should stay in school until they are 18. (A general opinion about the clothes people will be wearing in 100 years' time.)

Reporting someone's opinion

Photography is, **according to** Vidal, the art form of untalented people.

For Vidal, photography is the art form of untalented people.

His view is that photography is not art but merely the mechanical reproduction of images.

Smith **takes the view that** photography is both an art and a science.

In Brown's view, photography should be treated as a legitimate art in its own right.

James **is of the opinion that** a good painter can always be a good photographer if he or she so decides.

Emerson **believed that** a photograph should only reflect what the human eye can see.

Some critics **argue that** Picasso remained a great master all his life.

Others **maintain that** there is a significant deterioration in quality in his post-war work.

Picasso himself **claimed that** good art is created, but great art is stolen.

As Smith has noted, Picasso borrowed imagery from African art.

As the author points out, Picasso borrowed imagery from African art.

The writer challenges the notion that Picasso's sculpture was secondary to his painting.

It has been suggested that Picasso's painting was influenced by jazz music.

Giving opinions using impersonal language

It is vital that more is done to prevent the illegal trade in wild animals. ◇ (Compare: We have to do more to stop people trading wild animals illegally.)

Journalists **play a vital/crucial role** in educating the public.

Public trust **is a crucial issue for** all news organizations.

The ability to write well **is essential for** any journalist.

The Internet has become **an indispensable tool for** reporters.

In journalism, accuracy **is paramount. / ...is of paramount importance.**

It is imperative that journalists maintain the highest possible standards of reporting.

This case **emphasizes/highlights** the importance of honest communication between managers and employees.

Effective communication skills are **essential/crucial/vital.**

It should be noted that this study considers only verbal communication. Non-verbal communication is not dealt with here.

It is important to remember that/An important point to remember is that non-verbal communication plays a key role in getting your message across.

Communication is not only about the words you use but also your body language and, **especially/above all**, the effectiveness with which you listen.

I would like to **draw attention to** the role of listening in effective communication.

Choose your words carefully: **in particular**, avoid confusing and ambiguous language.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, you must learn to listen as well as to speak.

It is clear that more needs to be done to protect biodiversity. ◇ (Compare: We clearly need to do more to protect biodiversity.)

It is unfortunate that the practice of keeping monkeys as pets still continues. ◇ (Compare: It's absolutely terrible that people still keep monkeys as pets.)

It is difficult for many people to understand the reasons why certain individuals choose to hunt animals for sport. ◇ (Compare: I can't understand why anyone would want to kill animals for fun.)

Unfortunately, it would seem that not enough is being done to support tiger conservation. ◇ (Compare: Governments aren't doing enough to help tiger conservation.)

There is no doubt that the greatest threat to polar bears comes from global warming. ◇ (Compare: I believe that the greatest threat...)

I've got second thoughts about our logo discussion and I wonder if we could reconsider the style question.

Could we discuss our options again?

Making an opinion sound less definite

Most cybercrime involves traditional crimes, such as theft and fraud, being committed in new ways. Phishing is **perhaps/possibly/probably** the best-known example of this.

It seems/appears that the more personal data which organizations collect, the more opportunity there is for this data to be lost or stolen.

It seems clear that introducing national ID cards would do little to prevent identity theft.

It could be argued that the introduction of national ID cards might actually make identity theft easier.

It is possible that/It may be that the only way to protect ourselves against DNA identity theft is to avoid the creation of national DNA databases.