

VOCABULARY



CONFORMITY, NON-CONFORMITY, AGREEMENT,
DISAGREEMENT, REACHING CONSENSUS

OUTLINE:

1. Conformity and nonconformity related vocabulary
2. Expressing agreement
3. Expressing disagreement
4. Reaching consensus
5. Oral interaction activity

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Conformity /kən'fɔ:mitɪ/

Compliance in actions, behaviour or
ideas with certain accepted standards or norms.

I acted in conformity with my principles.

*The judge shall be responsible for conducting trials in conformity
with the applicable laws.*

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Nonconformist

One who does not conform to, or refuses to be bound by, accepted beliefs, customs, or practices.

My sister doesn't believe in marriage because she's a nonconformist.

The city of Portland lived up to its nonconformist reputation and voted against fluoridating the drinking water.

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Agree to disagree

Of two parties, to mutually accept that they simply do not and will not share the same view on a particular issue, in the interest of moving past the issue or avoiding further confrontation.

After their discussion about politics intensified, Fred and Sue had to agree to disagree before it impacted their friendship.

I'm sick of arguing with you, so let's just agree to disagree and move on from this issue.

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I couldn't agree more

Agree completely.

A: "Regardless of what your political views are, we need more civility in our discourse."

B: "I couldn't agree more. I'm glad to hear you say that."

We've heard what you've had to say, and frankly we couldn't agree more. It's just that we don't have the funding.

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Fit in

To be in accord or harmony with someone or something.

I really feel as if I fit in with that group of people.

With that attitude, he'll never fit in here.

It's good that you fit in with your new workmates.

This chair doesn't fit in with the style of furniture in my house.

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Rock the boat

To do or say something that might endanger a stable situation or upset the status quo.

None of my family members fight with each other, so please don't rock the boat by bringing up politics or controversial topics.

Many people feel the newspaper is too soft on the government and never rocks the boat when asking questions to the politicians.

Look, Tom, everything is going fine here. Don't rock the boat!

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Go with the flow

If you **go with the flow**, you let things happen to you or do what other people want, rather than trying to control what happens around yourself.

This year I'm going to leave my troubles and tension in the departure lounge and go with the flow.

Sometimes you just have to go with the flow of creativity.



We always do things your way!

Can't you just go with the flow for once?

*I try not to plan too much when I take a vacation
to a new place. I like to
just go with the flow when
I get there.*

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Blend in(to) (something)

To merge seamlessly and successfully with something.

Do you think Sam will be able to blend into the group? He can be pretty standoffish.

Don't wear anything too flashy—try to blend into the background.

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Stand out

To be especially noticeable, conspicuous, or prominent, especially in comparison to someone or something else.

Generally wear neutral clothing so that you don't stand out.

Her haircut really makes her stand out from the rest of her friends.

The picture's red frame makes it stand out against the green wall.

As a programmer, she stands out from all the others.

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Play it safe

To not take any unwarranted risks or dangers; to act with caution and prudence.

Despite the initial popularity of their product, the company has been playing it safe, deciding not to ramp up production until they are sure momentum will continue.

I think you should have your car looked at by a mechanic before your big road trip. Better to play it safe than end up stuck in the middle of nowhere!

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Stand up to (someone or something)

To confront someone or something in defiant opposition, especially in defense of oneself or someone else.

*Wow, I can't believe you stood up to the boss like that.
He's such a bully to everyone else.*

*We need to stand up to these big companies that try to pollute
our waters.*

He is a tough customer, and you have to learn to stand up to him.

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Stand up for (someone or something)

To defend or show one's support for someone or something;
to take the side of someone or something

We'll never make any progress if we don't have anyone in congress standing up for our cause.

Thank you for standing up for me back there. It just felt like everyone was against me.

We will have to stand up for our rights someday.

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One man's meat is another man's poison

What one person may consider good, enjoyable, or beneficial may be disliked by someone else.

A: "I really don't understand the appeal of the Harry Potter series. There are so many better books out there!"

B: "Eh, one man's meat is another man's poison."

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One man's meat is another man's poison

Fred: What do you mean you don't like French fries?

They're the best food in the world!

Alan: One man's meat is another man's poison.

Jill: I don't understand why Don doesn't like science fiction. It's so cool!

Jane: One man's meat is another man's poison.

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Live up to (someone's) expectations

To be as good as or have the qualities that someone predicted, expected, or hoped for.

We'd heard so much about the new restaurant, but the food didn't live up to our expectations at all.

*I'm so excited for the latest movie in the series—
I hope it lives up to my expectations!*

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Swim against the tide: to do something that is in opposition to the prevailing opinion or tendency. Another variation is: **swim against the current.**

In many ways, these bold political leaders decided to swim against the tide and confront the abusive government.

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I really swam against the tide when I was in college with some radical opinions, but as I've grown older I've found myself falling more in line with others.

I don't understand why you always have to swim against the tide instead of making things a little easier on yourself!

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Toe the line: To adhere to the rules of something.

From now on, I plan to toe the line and do exactly what my boss tells me, to avoid getting in any more trouble.

I expect you to toe the line at all times if you want to remain at this firm, Jonathan.

The new legislation could force them out of business if they don't toe the line.

Journalists who refuse to toe the line will have to be sacked.

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If you think.... have another think coming

(One's) expectations are wrong and unreasonable; (one) better think again. This expression is usually used to show that you are angry at what the person wanted and will not accept it.

If you think you can walk in here and just demand a raise, you've got another think coming.

If he thinks he can hit it big without paying his dues, he's got another think coming.

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If you think.... have another think coming

*She's quite wrong. She has another think coming
if she wants to walk in here like that.*

*If you think that I am driving all the way
to Donegal with that noise going on in the background,
you have another think coming.*

*If you think I'm going to give in, you've got another think
coming.*

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Expressions for Agreeing and Disagreeing

Stating an opinion

- In my opinion...
- The way I see it...
- If you want my honest opinion....
- According to Lisa...
- As far as I'm concerned...
- If you ask me...
- Personally, I believe that...
- I'm no expert but it's reasonable to assume that...

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Expressions for Agreeing and Disagreeing

Asking for an opinion

- What's your idea/view?
- What's your take on this?
- What are your thoughts on all of this?
- How do you feel about that?
- Do you have anything to say about this?
- What do you think?
- Do you agree?
- Wouldn't you say that...?

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Expressions for Agreeing and Disagreeing

Expressing agreement

- I agree with you 100 percent.
- I couldn't agree with you more.
- That's so true.
- That's for sure.
- **(slang)** Tell me about it!
- You're absolutely right.
- Absolutely!

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Expressions for Agreeing and Disagreeing

Expressing agreement

- That's exactly how I feel.
- Exactly.
- I'm afraid I agree with James.
- I have to side with Dad on this one.
- No doubt about it.
- **(agree with negative statement)** Me neither.
- **(weak)** I suppose so./I guess so. /I agree to some extent.
- You have a point there.
- I was just going to say that.

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Expressions for Agreeing and Disagreeing

Expressing disagreement

- I don't think so.
- **(strong)** No way.
- I'm afraid I disagree.
- **(strong)** I totally disagree.
- I beg to differ.
- **(strong)** I'd say the exact opposite.
- I can't say for certain that...

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Expressions for Agreeing and Disagreeing

Expressing disagreement

- I may be wrong, but...
- Sorry but I must dissent with you on that
- Not necessarily.
- That's not always true.
- That's not always the case.
- No, I'm not so sure about that.
- Do you really want...?
- Can you seriously picture...?
- Maybe it's just me but....

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Expressions for Agreeing and Disagreeing

Interruptions

- Can I add something here?
- Is it okay if I jump in for a second?
- If I might add something...
- Can I throw my two cents in?
- Sorry to interrupt, but...
- **(after accidentally interrupting someone)** Sorry, go ahead. **OR** Sorry, you were saying...
- **(after being interrupted)** You didn't let me finish.

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Expressions for Agreeing and Disagreeing

Proposing conditions and resolutions

- I'll agree to your...so long as...
- I'd accept... on the condition that...
- So why don't we...?
- Can I just suggest that we...?
- I'd like to suggest that we...

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Expressions for Agreeing and Disagreeing

Settling an argument

- Let's just move on, shall we?
- Let's drop it.
- I think we're going to have to agree to disagree.
- **(sarcastic)** Whatever you say./If you say so.

SPEAKING

Oral Interaction



ACTIVITY: Discussion in groups

You are at a teacher staff meeting with the following agenda:

- Proposal to introduce of a new language in the curriculum at the Official School of Languages

Each of you supports a different language (Portuguese, Chinese, Arabic...). Discuss the different possibilities expressing your opinions, agreeing, disagreeing and reaching a consensus.