

Hello everyone!

The topics for this week's class, Friday August 20, are: [Personal Challenge "Up Your Game" and "Your Questions"](#)

We will continue our discussion of how to improve progress in learning/acquiring English, in "real life" activities. Also, I have received emails from some of you with specific questions about American English language and culture. I think the answers will be interesting to everyone.

We will participate in two activities:

1) Want to make more progress in your English? Let's take some risks!

- In breakout groups discuss what activities (risks!) you have taken, or would like take to "up your game" in English.

2) "Your Questions" In the big group, we will review some of the questions I have received recently.



What will you do to learn more English?



Your Questions

Want to “up your game” in English conversation skills?

Step away from your books, websites, ESL classes (except conversation classes!)

Look for any opportunity to have real life conversations in English:

- Join an organization – book club, gym, choir, dance group, sport team etc.
- Take classes in English in something you’re interested: photography, cooking, travel, music, computers, etc.
- Shop in English speaking grocery stores: Safeway, Whole Foods, Trader Joe’s, etc.
- Volunteer – local library, school, hospital, daycare, food banks, senior center.
- Find a language partner – someone who speaks English and is interested in acquiring your native language.

Get out of your comfort zone!

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What will you do?

Your Questions

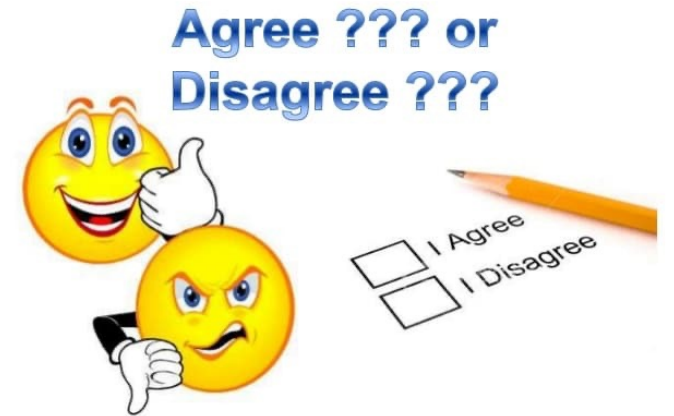
1. How can I respectfully disagree with someone. Can you give me some phrases to use?
2. How can I articulate and express my thoughts and feelings about a book, a movie, or news report?



Question #1: How can I respectfully disagree with someone? Can you give me some phrases to use?

Five strategies to respectfully disagree in English

1. Don't make it personal. ...
2. Listen to the other person's point of view.
3. Avoid putting down the other person's ideas and beliefs. . .
4. Use "I" statements to communicate how you feel and what you think.
5. Stay calm.



Five Common Phrases to Respectfully Disagree in English

1. I respectfully disagree.
2. I see what you're saying, but I think...
3. I understand where you are coming from but. . .
4. I'm sorry but I disagree with you on this.
5. I'm sorry I just don't see it that way.



But if all else fails . . .



Agree to disagree



Here is an excellent YouTube video by ESL teacher AnnMarie of **Speak Confident English**

“How to Disagree Politely in English”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NFzDSKsP54Q>

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Question #2: How can I express my thoughts and feelings about a book, a movie or news article?

Are your thoughts and feelings **positive**, **negative** or **neutral**?

Positive

That was a great article!
I just read an amazing book.
I really liked it (because. . .)

Negative

That was a terrible article.
The movie was awful.
I really didn't like it (because. . .)

Neutral

The movie was ok.
The book was all right, but not as interesting as I thought it would be.
It was fine, but I probably wouldn't recommend it to anyone.