

Useful Language for Discussions

Giving Opinions

I think *we should get a new car.*

I don't think *we need one.*

I believe (that) *smoking should be outlawed.*

I don't believe (that) *it should be illegal.*

In my opinion, *natto is the best food in the world.*

I feel that *it's the right thing to do.*

I don't feel *that it's such a good idea.*

Agreeing

I agree.

So do I.

Me too.

Me neither. (Agreeing about a negative idea.)

I don't either. (Agreeing about a negative idea.)

You're right.

That's right.

Good idea.

I think that's a good idea.

Disagreeing

I disagree.

I don't think so.

(No.) That's not right.

Yes, but...

(I'm sorry, but) I don't agree.

Asking for Support or Details

Why do you think that?

Could you elaborate?

Asking for Opinions

What do you think?

What's your opinion?

What are your ideas?

How do you feel about that?

Speaking Hypothetically

What would you do if . . .

Suppose . . .

Imagine . . .

Checking for Understanding

(Do you) know what I mean?

Do you know what I'm saying?

Do you understand?

Are you following me?

Any questions?

Showing Understanding

I see.

I understand.

I get it./I got it.

Expressing Lack of Understanding

I don't get it.

(I'm sorry.) I don't understand.

What do you mean?

I don't quite follow you.

What was that again?

Interrupting Politely

Excuse me,

Pardon me,

May I interrupt (for a minute)?

Can I add something here?

Getting Back to the Topic

Anyway,
Now, where was I?
Where were we?
What were you saying?
You were saying . . .

Asking for Elaboration

Could you elaborate (on that)?
Could you tell me a little more about it?
Could you give an example?
Could you give (me/us) some details?
What else can you tell us (about that)?

Elaborating

To elaborate,
Let me explain.
Let me elaborate.
Let me tell you a little more (about it).
Let me give you some details.

Conceding to Make a Point

That may be true, but . . .
I may be wrong, but . . .
You might be right, but . . .
You have a good point, but . . .
I hate to bring this up, but . . .
This may sound strange, but . . .

Commenting

That's interesting. I think that...
Interesting point. I would add...
Hmmm. I hadn't thought of that before.
What do you think about . . .
What about . . .
Can I add something here?

Paraphrasing

So . . . (rephrase the other person's ideas)

In other words . . . (paraphrase)

I understand. (You're saying that . . .)

Oh, I see. (You want to say that . . .)

So, what you mean is . . .

What I think you're saying is . . .

Clarifying your own ideas

In other words,

What I mean is . . .

What I'm trying to say is . . .

What I wanted to say was . . .

Asking for Clarification

What do you mean (by that)?

What are you trying to say?

Could you clarify that?

Clarifying Another's Ideas

What you mean is . . .

What you're saying is . . .

(I think) what she/he means is . . .

If I understand you, (you're saying that . . .)

Supporting Your Opinions

Let me illustrate,

For example,

Let me give you an example,

First, (Second), etc. (These phrases can be followed by details, examples, elaboration, or a summary of your main points.)

Summarizing/Concluding

In conclusion,

In short,

To summarize,

In summary,

To make a long story short,