VOCABULARY FOR DEBATES & DISCUSSIONS

B2–C1 | Speaking & Writing Practice

Name: _____ Date: _____

Use natural, persuasive and polite English to express opinions, respond to others and build arguments.

1 Recognise the discussion skill

Match each expression (1–6) to its purpose (A–F). Write the correct letter in each box.

1. I'm not entirely convinced that... ☐
2. What I mean is... ☐
3. If I may add something... ☐
4. That's a fair point. ☐
5. This can be illustrated by... ☐
6. Taking everything into account... ☐

A summarise a decision B acknowledge a point C give an example
D join the discussion E disagree politely F clarify meaning

2 Choose the most appropriate expression

Circle A, B or C. Choose the expression that best matches the situation.

1. You partly agree with a colleague.
   A Above all... B There's some truth in that. C I couldn't agree more.
2. You want to challenge an idea without sounding rude.
   A You're wrong. B Exactly! C I see it differently.
3. You want to introduce information that supports your argument.
   A Evidence suggests that... B To sum up... C Could I jump in here?
4. You want to add a point while another person is speaking.
   A I firmly believe... B If I may add something... C In conclusion...
5. You want to restate an idea more clearly.
   A In other words... B I couldn't agree more. C This raises concerns...
6. You want to identify the central problem.
   A From my perspective... B For instance... C The key issue here is...

3 Complete a realistic discussion

Use each phrase from the box once to complete the conversation about remote working.

- In my view
- I see your point, but
- For instance
- What I mean is
- If I may add something
- It's worth noting that
- That's a fair point
- Taking everything into account

A: (1) _____, working from home should remain an option.

B: (2) _____ some people feel isolated without colleagues.

A: That is true. (3) _____, people living in shared flats may find it hard to work in peace.

B: (4) _____ that flexibility matters, but not every job can be done remotely.

C: (5) _____, a hybrid arrangement could meet different needs.

A: (6) _____ employers also need to consider staff wellbeing.

B: (7) _____. Different teams may need different arrangements.

C: (8) _____, a mixture of home and office work seems most practical.

4 Make your language more diplomatic

Rewrite these comments so that they sound more respectful or balanced. Use the expression in brackets.

1. You're wrong. Online classes never work. (I'm not entirely convinced…)

2. Your proposal is a terrible idea. (I see your point, but…)

3. Everybody knows public transport is useless. (It could be argued that…)

4. I have the best solution. End of discussion. (Taking everything into account…)

5 Collaborative speaking challenge

Work with a partner. Discuss the choices, respond to each other, and agree on ONE final decision.

A town council has enough money for one improvement. Which project would benefit local residents most?

● **More frequent public transport**	● **Safer cycle routes**
● **A larger public park**	● **Free community classes**

Student A: Begin by giving your view and one reason. Then invite your partner's opinion.

Student B: Respond, partly agree or disagree politely, and introduce another option.

Together: Consider at least two choices and reach a shared decision.

Our decision: _____

The strongest reason: _____

6 Write a balanced mini-debate

Write 100–130 words answering the question below. Include a clear opinion, a reason, an example, a concession and a conclusion.

Should mobile phones be allowed during school lessons?

Useful phrases: In my view… | One of the main reasons is… | That may be true; however… | Overall…

Check your work: ☐ polite tone ☐ supported opinion ☐ concession ☐ clear conclusion

ANSWER KEY & TEACHER NOTES

Vocabulary for Debates & Discussions • B2–C1

1 Recognise the discussion skill

1 E • 2 F • 3 D • 4 B • 5 C • 6 A

2 Choose the most appropriate expression

1 B • 2 C • 3 A • 4 B • 5 A • 6 C

3 Complete a realistic discussion

1. In my view
2. I see your point, but
3. For instance
4. What I mean is
5. If I may add something
6. It's worth noting that
7. That's a fair point
8. Taking everything into account

4 Make your language more diplomatic

Possible answers – accept other natural, appropriate alternatives.

1. I'm not entirely convinced that online classes never work; they can be effective for some students.

2. I see your point, but I have some concerns about how practical the proposal would be.

3. It could be argued that public transport needs significant improvement in some areas.

4. Taking everything into account, I believe my proposal offers the most practical solution.

5 Collaborative speaking challenge

Example exchange – focus on genuine interaction, not memorising the dialogue.

A: In my view, more frequent buses would help the greatest number of residents.

B: That's a valid point, but safer cycle routes could also reduce traffic.

A: I agree to an extent. However, not everyone can cycle, particularly older residents.

B: That's fair. What I mean is that cycle routes would also make journeys safer.

A: Taking everything into account, shall we choose public transport?

B: Yes, I think that would have the broadest impact.

Teacher's checklist: appropriate interaction; relevant reasons and examples; polite disagreement; shared decision; clear, natural language.

6 Write a balanced mini-debate

Example response (approximately 110 words). Other well-supported opinions are equally acceptable.

In my view, mobile phones should be allowed in lessons only when teachers have a clear reason for using them. One of the main advantages is that students can look up information quickly and use educational apps. For example, a language teacher might ask a class to check pronunciation or complete a short online quiz. That may be true; however, unrestricted phone use can distract students and make it harder to concentrate. Some pupils may also feel pressure to check messages rather than take part in the lesson. Overall, I would argue that schools should set sensible rules instead of imposing a complete ban, so technology supports learning without interrupting it.

Extension: Ask learners to underline one expression that states an opinion, one that concedes a point and one that signals a conclusion.

Source lesson: myenglishteacher.co.uk • Original classroom practice material