

agreeing - disagreeing

Simple

I think we should take a break for lunch.

Me too.
I think so too.

Not me.
I don't think so.

Polite

We are so busy! I think we need to work late.

I think you may be right.
That seems like a good idea.
That seems reasonable.

I'm sorry to disagree, but ...
I hate to disagree, but ...
I'm afraid I disagree.

Strong

Summer break should be one week longer this year.

I totally agree.
I couldn't agree more.
That's a fantastic idea.
Absolutely.

I totally disagree.
I couldn't disagree more.
That's just not a workable idea.
Absolutely not.

Tone of voice can change the meaning. Try disagreeing in these voices:

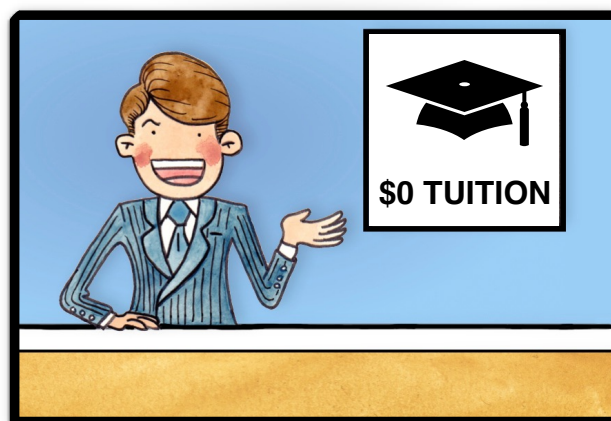
Happy

Serious

Angry

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- A: Did you see the news last night?
 B: No, sorry. Why?
 A: The president said college should be free for everyone.
 B: Wow! That's a great idea.
 A: I think so too.
 B: My university is so expensive. It's really hard to pay for classes.
 A: Mine too. Do you think it will ever be free?
 B: It's a nice idea but big changes always take a long time.
 A: That's a good point but I think it will happen in the next ten years.
 B: I hope you're right.



Agree or disagree with a specific point.

My team has amazing defense.	That's a good point	but	they have weak offense.
The movie made lots of money.	You have a point		it also got bad reviews.
Change takes time.	I see what you mean	however	we can't wait forever.
This plan will help us.	I hear you		only in the short-term.



- A: I love this movie. It's so good.
 B: Are you serious? I totally disagree.
 A: What!? Why?
 B: It's so old and it's so slow.
 A: You have a point. It is slow but it's also really popular.
 B: I hear you.
 A: Well, what movie do you like?
 B: Actually, I like the remake.
 A: What!? But you don't like the original!
 B: That's true but the new one is faster and it has better special effects.
 A: I see what you mean.

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General Lesson Plan

Greeting and *brief* introduction for new students

Topical warm-up conversation (Choose **one**)

best or worst *movie* of all time / negotiations / disagreeing (works great as its own topic)

5 - 10 min

Needs analysis: Teacher notes down key patterns / phrases from the students' speaking

Brief error correction, drill, and pattern reinforcement

Listening: Conversation one

Ask comprehension questions (repeat for listening or pronunciation issues)

5 - 10 min

Students read and practice in pairs

Students practice without looking

Key Speaking point: Agreeing and Disagreeing

5 - 10 min

Discuss situations where you need to disagree

(negotiations at work / sharing fun opinions about light topics)

Find out:

Students work in pairs to practice disagreeing or agreeing.

5 - 10 min

Switch partners and repeat

Variation: Students report back about their partners

Brief review

Assign homework

5 min

Closing and salutations

Helpful hint:

Some students are uncomfortable disagreeing due to their culture or personal experience.

Make them comfortable by setting up realistic ways to disagree. Anyone with even a little work experience needs to be able to disagree in order to handle negotiations, contract agreements, sales, planning meetings, or setting budgets and goals.

For people without experience try setting it up as fun banter between two friends talking about the greatest or worst movie or game.