

Function	Examples
Expressing an opinion	<p>In my opinion, it's better to take the bus than the train.</p> <p>Personally, I think that professional sportsmen are paid too much.</p> <p>I believe that hospital staff are underpaid.</p> <p>I feel that computer games have a bad influence on children.</p> <p>I would say that the gap between rich and poor is growing.</p> <p>In my view, I think we watch too much television.</p> <p>Frankly speaking, I think we watch too much television.</p>
Expressing a lack of opinion	<p>If you really have nothing to say, it is better to express a lack of opinion and wait for the next question than to keep silent. You can say:</p> <p>I'm afraid I've never been interested in football.</p> <p>I'm afraid I'm not very keen on art.</p> <p>I'm afraid I don't know much about art.</p> <p>I'm sorry, I'm not familiar with that topic.</p> <p>I'm sorry, I'm completely unfamiliar with that topic.</p> <p>I haven't really thought about that. (<i>then try to give your best answer</i>)</p>

Visiting places

Match the words and phrases on the left with their correct definitions on the right:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. sightseeing | a. a person who lives in a particular area |
| 2. nightlife | b. a place, for example a shop or a night club, which sells expensive goods or services to tourists |
| 3. a tourist trap | c. entertainment and social activities which happen in the evening |
| 4. a local | d. in very bad condition, needs to be repaired or rebuilt |
| 5. run-down | e. the level of material comfort that people have in a particular society |
| 6. the tourist trade | f. the tourism business or industry |
| 7. standard of living | g. visiting interesting places, especially when you are on holiday |

Listening

Alice, Simon and George visit a historical European town which has become very popular with visitors in the past few years. Read the sentences below about the positive and negative effects of the recent tourism explosion and then listen to the opinions of the three visitors, putting 'A' (Alice), 'S' (Simon) or 'G' (George) next to each sentence.

1. Local business has benefited. ____
2. Unemployment is lower and the standard of living has improved. ____
3. The infrastructure and transport system still need a lot of work. ____
4. The nightlife attracts tourists who drink too much and behave badly. ____
5. The local government is able to maintain and restore old buildings. ____
6. The new hotels look awful. ____
7. Tourist traps, fast food restaurants, hotels and shops have ruined the character of the town. ____

Discussing opinions

Study the expressions below. Listen to the discussion again and tick the ones that you hear.

ASKING FOR AN OPINION

- ☐ What do you think?
- ☐ What's your opinion about ...?

GIVING AN OPINION

- ☐ I think ...
- ☐ In my opinion,
- ☐ I feel ...
- ☐ I would say ...

GIVING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- ☐ On top of that,
- ☐ What's more,

INTRODUCING A CONTRAST

- ☐ However,
- ☐ But on the other hand,

AGREEING

- ☐ I totally agree with that.
- ☐ That's true.
- ☐ Absolutely
- ☐ You're right.

PARTIALLY AGREEING

- ☐ That may be true, but ...
- ☐ You could be right, but ...
- ☐ You're right up to a point, but ...

DISAGREEING

- ☐ I disagree.
- ☐ I'm not sure about that, to be honest.
- ☐ You must be joking!
- ☐ Come on!

Sometimes it is more polite to disagree 'tentatively' with someone else's opinion, even if you do not agree at all. Can you think of any situations in which you would use this tactic more than usual?

Put +++ (strong disagreement), ++ (disagreement) or + (tentative disagreement) next to each expression of disagreement.