

Speaking Skills

(1)

How to express lack of understanding I

When you fail to understand what has been said to you, you can use these expressions:

- I beg your pardon?
- I beg your pardon, but I don't quite understand.
- I'm not quite sure I know what you mean.
- I'm not quite sure I follow you.

How to express lack of understanding II

- I don't quite see what you mean.
- I'm not sure I got your point.
- Sorry, I didn't quite hear what you said.
- Sorry, I didn't get your point.
- I don't quite see what you're getting at.

How yo ask for clarification I

When you don't understand what someone has said, you can ask for clarification using the following expressions:

- What do you mean by...?
- Do you mean...?
- Could you say that again, please?
- Could you repeat please?
- Could you clarify that, please?

How yo ask for clarification II

- Would you elaborate on that , please?
- Could you be more explicit?
- Could you explain what you mean by...?
- Could you give us an example?
- I wonder if you could say that in a different way.
- Could you put it differently, please?
- Could you be more specific, please?

Clarifying one's point or idea

To clarify your idea you can use the following expressions:

- Let me explain that...
- Let me explain that in more detail...
- Let me put it in another way...
- Sorry let me explain...
- In other words...
- To say this differently...
- To put it differently...

**Agreement
partial agreement
and
disagreement**

Agreement

If you agree with an opinion or an idea, you are expected to say so.

- There is no doubt about it that...
- I completely / absolutely agree with you.
- I agree with you entirely.
- I totally agree with you.
- I simply must agree with that.
- I am of the same opinion.
- That's exactly what I think.

Disagreement I

Expressing disagreement is always respected as honest, and sometimes as courageous.

- I don't agree with you.
- I'm sorry, but I disagree.
- I'm afraid, I can't agree with you.
- The problem is that...
- I (very much) doubt whether...

Disagreement II

- This is in complete contradiction to...
- With all due respect,...
- I am of a different opinion because ...
- I cannot share this / that / the view.
- I cannot agree with this idea.
- What I object to is...
- I have my own thoughts about that.

Partial agreement I

You can also agree but with reservation especially when there is a doubt or feeling of not being able to accept something completely

- It is only partly true that...
- That's true, but...
- I can agree with that only with reservations.

Partial agreement II

- That seems obvious, but...
- That is not necessarily so.
- It is not as simple as it seems.
- I agree with you in principle, but...
- I agree with you in part, but...
- Well, you could be right.