

Discussion II

I. Introductory remarks

II. Useful phrases for members of the audience

I. Introductory remarks

The purpose of this section is to give you an opportunity to practise asking questions, making comments, expressing agreement/disagreement with the speaker.

Remember that it is **not common** practice in English **to ask blunt questions** (e.g. Tell me what you think about ...) or give blunt opinions (I disagree).

Start your questions with: would you, could you, I wonder if..., would you mind + -ing.

Give your opinion using: in my opinion, I believe, I'm not quite sure, I'm afraid.

Do not forget to praise the author/appreciate the presentation before expressing disagreement.

II. Useful phrases for members of the audience

1. Asking

Asking for an opinion

What do you think of ...?

What's your opinion on ...?

Do you have any opinion on ...?

What's your view on/about ...?

What's your position on ...?

Asking for further information/explanation

Could you be a little more precise?

Could you explain it in more detail?

Would you care to elaborate on that?

Could you expand on that?

Could you explain why ...?

Could you explain how you (arrived at) ...?

Would you mind explaining why (you didn't use ...)?

Asking for clarification

What do you mean by that?

Do you mean that ...?

I'm not quite sure what you mean by that.

I'm not sure I understand. Does that mean ...?

Could you go back to the third slide and explain ...?

I'm sorry if I am a little bit slow, but I'm not sure I understand. Does that mean ...?

Would I be right in supposing ...?

Asking someone to say something again

I'm sorry, I didn't quite catch (your explanation of ...)

I'm sorry, I didn't quite catch what you said about ...

Would you repeat what you said about ...?

I'm sorry, I didn't hear what you said about ...

Would you mind repeating ...?

Checking that the presenter and the other participants understand you

Do you know what I mean?

Do I make/Have I made myself clear?

2. Commenting and giving an opinion

Commenting

I'd like to comment on ...

Can I just comment on ...

I'd like to point out that ...

I'd like to make a few remarks on ...

Expressing doubts

Are you quite sure about ...?

Perhaps I misunderstood, but are you quite sure ...?

Have you taken into account?

I wonder if you've considered ...?

Is there any doubt about ...?

Giving an opinion

In my view/opinion ...

I believe/think ...

As I see it, it's ...

It seems to me that ...

Saying you are sure/not sure

I'm quite sure ...

I'm quite convinced ...

I don't think there can be any doubt about .../that ...

There's no doubt that ...

I'm not certain that ...

Saying that something is possible

I assume/believe ...

It's reasonable to believe ...

It's not out of the question.

Saying that something is improbable

I don't think it's very likely.

I think it's (very) unlikely.

I don't think/suppose ...

I'd be surprised if ...

Agreeing/Disagreeing

I agree.

I think you're right.

I'm of exactly the same opinion.

I agree with you on the whole, but it could be said that ...

I agree in principle, but ...

I'm afraid I can't agree with you on that.

I agree to a certain extent, but ...

I can see your point, but ...

We will have to agree to differ/disagree.

Emphasizing

I particularly want to emphasize ...

I feel this is a vital issue.

3. Interrupting the speaker

May I interrupt you for a moment?

Sorry to interrupt, but ...

I don't want to interrupt, but ...

4. Asking for more information on the subject

Could you refer me to some literature on the subject?

I wonder if you could recommend some literature on the subject.

EXERCISES

I. Correct the following mistakes.

1. I don't understand what do you mean by that.

.....

2. Could you say us something more about your method?

.....

3. According to my opinion, more measurements will be necessary.

.....

4. I'd like to make a few notes on ...

.....

5. I'm afraid I don't know what it means partial discharge.

.....

6. Can you explain me this formula?

.....

7. I'd like to tell just a few words.

.....

8. I'd like to say a few remarks on ...

.....

9. Could you explain how did you solve that problem?

.....

10. It's no doubt that this is the best solution.

.....

11. Is there time for a few notices on ...?

.....

12. Would you mind to repeat that definition?

.....

II. Translate

1. Co si myslíte o používání větrné energie v České republice?

.....

2. Jaký je váš názor na nanotechnologii?

.....

3. Mohl byste to upřesnit?

.....

4. Mohl byste to trochu rozvést?

.....

5. Mohl byste vysvětlit, proč nechcete používat tuto metodu?

.....

6. Co tím myslíte?

.....

7. Nejsem si zcela jist, co myslíte nejnovějšími materiály.

.....

8. Zopakoval byste, co jste řekl o vašem hlavním problému?

.....

9. Jste si zcela jist tímto postupem?

.....

10. Vzáli jste v úvahu klimatické podmínky?

.....

11. Víte, co myslím?

.....

12. Rád bych řekl několik poznámek k vašim výsledkům.

.....

13. Podle mého názoru jsou tyto odchylky zanedbatelné.

.....

14. Zdá se mi, že některé vaše výpočty nejsou zcela přesné.

.....

15. Jsem si zcela jist, že bychom došli ke stejným výsledkům, i kdybychom použili jiné metody.

.....

16. Není pochyb o tom, že náš postup byl správný.

.....

17. Předpokládám, že jste si své výpočty ověřili.

.....

18. Myslím, že máte pravdu.

.....

19. V zásadě s vámi souhlasím, ale domnívám se, že některé jevy budou muset být prozkoumány detailněji.

.....

20. Mohl byste mě odkázat na své další články?

.....

III. Make the following sentences sound more polite.

1. Tell me what you think of the use of geothermal energy in the Czech Republic.

.....

2. Explain how you arrived at these figures.

.....

3. Go back to Table 4.

.....

4. I don't understand. What does that mean?

.....
5. I didn't catch what you said about air pollution in Pilsen.
.....

6. I don't agree with you.
.....

IV. Reformulate the following sentences to make them acceptable.

You may think this

but you say it like this

1. It's complete rubbish.

.....

.....

2. Your data are wrong.

.....

.....

3. That's crazy. That'll never happen.

.....

.....

4. I don't believe your results.

.....

.....

5. Your explanation is very confusing.

.....

I can't make head or tail of it.

.....

V. The purpose of this exercise is to give you practice in asking questions. Follow the instructions below. Use two phrases to express what the instructions tell you.

1. You want to know the speaker's opinion on the future of nuclear power.

a)

b)

You want the speaker to explain how they arrived at the figures in Table 1.

a)

b)

3. You need more information on the processing of the signals the speaker spoke about.

a)

b)

4. You didn't understand what the speaker meant. Ask him/her.

a)

b)

5. You didn't hear what the speaker said about the new communication system. Ask him/her.

a)

b)

6. You want to express doubts about the speaker's expectations that wind power in the Czech Republic will cover 10% of power consumption in the Czech Republic by 2020.

a)

b)

7. Make sure that everybody understands you.

a)

b)

VI. The purpose of this exercise is to give you practice in making comments and expressing your views. If you can't think of any suitable arguments, use the hints given in the brackets.

1. You want to comment on what the speaker said about the future of nuclear power.

.....

2. Say that you don't agree with the speaker.

.....

3. Give your opinion.

(after the Fukushima accident many countries will reconsider their position on nuclear power).

.....

4. Say what you are sure of.

(Japan will change its energy policy)

.....

5. Say what you consider possible/probable.

(many European countries will do the same)

.....

6. Say what you consider unlikely.

(France will follow suit)

.....