

Language Banks

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Expressions used before challenging

- Perhaps I didn't clarify that well enough...
- I didn't say that. What I said was...
- I think you might be mistaken.
- To be fair, you do have a point, but...
- Honestly, I can't see how you can say that.

Contradicting

- Well, I don't see it that way...
- I understand what you're saying, but...
- From what I understand, that's not true...
- That can't possibly be true...
- But what about...?

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Signposting phrases: Sequencing (1)

- To begin with... / First of all... / Let's start with...
- Let's leave that and go to / get back to...
- Now, that brings us to...
- Let's move on to the next subject...
- As I have shown / stated already...

Inferring

- Wouldn't you think that...?
- Now, if it was me, I would...
- I would imagine that...
- Based on my own experience, I would say...
- It seems to suggest..., don't you think?

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Justifying an argument

- I think most people would agree that...
- Most evidence seems to point to...
- It's a well-known fact that...
- The information I have suggests...
- As far as most (people) are concerned,...

Expressions for downplaying

- Well, it's difficult to say (one way or another).
- I wouldn't go so far as to say that.
- You might be jumping to conclusions.
- Until we know all the facts, I wouldn't want to...
- It's probably best that we don't...

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Expressing beliefs

- I am convinced that...
- Personally, I feel that...
- I really believe that...
- As far as I'm concerned,...

Modifying words

- basically
- quite
- certainly
- essentially
- really
- fairly
- particularly
- mainly

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Expressing ideas tentatively

- It seems to me that...
- I might be wrong in saying this, but...
- I tend to think that...
- Doesn't this suggest (that)...?
- Don't you think it might be a good idea to...

Vivid adjectives

Positive

- inspiring
- fresh
- exquisite
- spectacular
- tasteful
- exotic

Negative

- tasteless
- impractical
- flashy
- inferior
- dull
- functional

6 part 1

Expressing reservations

- I'm not entirely sure about that.
- You have a point there, but...
- I know what you're saying, but...
- That might be true, but...

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Signposting phrases: Sequencing (2)

- I'd put...first, then..., next..., and finally...
- My first choice would be..., followed by...
- Secondly,... / Thirdly,... / Lastly,...
- The most important would be..., then...
- Also... / As well... / And again...
- The next most important is...
- Equally important is...

Asserting

- I would put forward the idea that...
- I am confident that...
- We should realise that...
- It can be argued that...
- I can confirm that...

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Developing an argument

- Consequently, this means that...
- It follows logically then that...
- By extension, we can surmise that...
- From here, we can conclude that...
- Clearly then, this indicates that...

Expressions used to introduce assertions

- Did you know that...?
- As a matter of fact...
- The simple fact is...
- I would just like to point out one thing.
- As you are probably aware,...

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Summarising information ideas and arguments

- In conclusion,... / In short,...
- This would lead me to conclude...
- For this reason...
- As I have already pointed out...
- In my view, the central issue is...
- To sum up...

Expressions used to contradict

- Frankly, I can't see it.
- Do you honestly think so?
- In actual fact, it's just the opposite.
- Not if we consider (the fact) that...
- I would argue that it's actually...
- Come on. You have to admit...

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Calmng expressions

- There's nothing to worry about.
- Try to calm down; worrying won't help.
- Everything's going to be fine.
- It's not such a big thing.
- Let's try to keep things in perspective.

Language of empathy and sympathy

- You must be feeling absolutely terrible.
- I know exactly how you feel / he / she must be feeling...
- That must have been very hard for you / him / her. I feel so sorry for you / him / her.
- I can see how difficult it must be...
- I can imagine how painful it must have been.

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Eliciting feedback

- What's your feeling on this?
- What do you think will / would happen?
- How would you resolve this situation?
- What's your opinion on this matter?
- Why do you think this happens?
- Do you have anything to add?

Expressing caution

- I'm not sure I would...
- It could be (the case) that...
- It seems as if...
- I would be a little concerned that...
- If I were to hazard a guess, I might say...
- I'm not confident (that)...