

Debate vocabulary

(1) *When you start saying something / contributing to a conversation*

First of all, I would like to say/state that

To begin with, I

In the first line, I

(2) *What can you say instead of "I think"*

I would say/think

In my opinion

To my mind

I am of the opinion that

I hold the opinion that

I am convinced that

I know for sure that

(3) *When you want to stress your "personal opinion":*

Personally I think

As far as I am concerned

As for me

As I take it

As far as I can see

My feeling is that.. ; If you ask me...

What I´m getting at is... / What I´m trying to say is.. / My point is...

(4) *When you "agree" or when you "don't agree":*

I entirely/quite agree with you.

I am of the same opinion.

I differ from/with you entirely.

I disagree with you: I am sure you're mistaken.

I stick to my opinion.

Let's agree to differ!

I agree with / disagree with you

I see/understand your point but / You´ve got a point / a case there but I´m not sure. whether ...; I have doubts / reservations about

(5) *When you want to say the "opposite" of what someone else said:*

on the contrary! quite the contrary! just the opposite!

That is the very opposite of what I said.

That is quite the contrary to what I said.

I maintain the contrary.

In contrast to what you said, I maintain that.....

(6) *When you are "quite sure" of something:*

of course!

That goes without saying

It goes without saying that

I contend/maintain that.....

It's my conviction that.....

(7) *When you want to "ask a question":*

May I interrupt you?

There arises the question/point whether/if

This question raises the whole issue

(8) *When you "haven't understood":*

I beg your pardon. / Pardon?

Could you repeat what you've just said? But slower, please./

Could you slow down a bit?

(9) *If you should want to "correct a mistake":*

Excuse me (for interrupting) you should have said:"....."

(10) *When you want to distinguish one aspect from the other:*

on the one hand - on the other hand

in general - in particular

generally speaking

on the whole

taken as a whole

at first sight - on second thoughts

(11) *When you want to "add" something:*

In addition
Moreover
Furthermore
Finally
What's more
Besides,...
On top of that,...

(12) When you want to "emphasize" something:

I would like to lay (put) emphasis (stress) on the fact that..
I just want to point out that

(13) When you want to "say the truth":

To be frank (with you)
Frankly (speaking)
To say the truth

(14) And if you are "not sure":

I don't know exactly.
I don't know for certain.

(A) General phrases:

in other words in this respect
to a certain degree/extent It depends on your point of view
in brief/short / To be brief / To cut a long story short,.....
Let me put it this way:....
I don't know. - I don't know either. Nor/Neither do I.
I don't see that working in practice. ; It may work in the short-term / in the
long-term. ; I think that's debatable.
Prove it! ; Your argument is flawed because... ; What's that got to do with the
issue? ; You're missing the point. ; It's ridiculous to suggest that....
Bear in mind that ...
You'd better ... / you should...
Let's face it....
In general... ; On the whole... ; As a rule.... ; It goes without saying that...
What is your point? What are you driving at?

You´re not serious, are you? ;You must be joking! That´s nonsense / rubbish / ridiculous.