

Challenging someone's ideas

In this video, Vanya tells Paul and Emir about her latest idea. Listen to the language they use for challenging someone's ideas and practise saying the useful phrases.

Before watching

Do the preparation task first. Then watch the video and do the exercises.

Preparation task

Match the endings of the sentences (a–h) with the beginnings (1–8).

Beginning

1. I'm a bit lost. What
2. Have you considered
3. I take your
4. I see where
5. I think I agree
6. How exactly
7. I'm very aware
8. You have to look at it from

Ending

- a. do you see this working?
- b. are you talking about?
- c. with you here.
- d. point, but I'm not really sure.
- e. both sides.
- f. the fact that Monday's a national holiday?
- g. you're coming from.
- h. of the challenges here, but it's worth a try.

Tasks

Task 1

Are the sentences true or false?

	Answer	
1. Vanya is very excited about her new idea.	True	False
2. She wants to add a few cat videos to their social media account.	True	False
3. Paul loves the idea.	True	False
4. Emir isn't sure about the idea at first.	True	False
5. Vanya believes that sharing cat videos will increase their number of social media followers.	True	False
6. Emir wants to know more details about Vanya's plan.	True	False
7. Vanya already knows who's going to find the cat videos.	True	False
8. In the end, Emir thinks they should try a different idea.	True	False

Task 2

Put the words in the correct order to make sentences.

1. talking about? lost. What are you bit I'm a
2. considered we're a branding agency, the fact that not a pet shop? Have you
3. your point, be imaginative. but I take
4. from. you're coming where I see
5. with agree Paul here. I think I
6. this working? do you How exactly see
7. but this will work. the challenges here, I'm very aware I'm convinced of
8. look from You have to both sides. at it

Task 3

Complete the dialogue with the words in the box.

about	both	challenges	coming
exactly	fact	lost	point

A: Food! Fridays!

B: I'm a bit (1)..... . What are you talking (2).....?

A: Food Fridays! Every Friday, someone brings in some food they've made for the office to share. Healthy, of course. I think it will really improve the mood in the office.

B: Oh. Have you considered the (3)..... that some people don't like cooking?

A: Yes, of course. People could buy something instead. And we'd make a list of what people can't eat and things like that too.

B: I see where you're (4)..... from, but how is this going to improve people's mood if they have to spend money?

A: I take your (5)....., but I'm sure we could make arrangements with the finance department so that people can get the money back.

B: Perhaps. So how (6)..... do you see this working?

A: Well, we set up a calendar and people write their name next to the Friday when they want to bring something.

B: But what if some people don't write their names? Or forget to bring the food?

A: I'm very aware of the (7)..... here, but I think enough people will love the idea, and we really need something positive right now!

B: OK, I guess you have to look at it from (8)..... sides. Once it starts, people who don't like the idea now might change their minds ... OK, let's try it!

Discussion

Have you ever tried any unusual ideas at work?

Transcript

Ana: Hi! I'm Ana. Welcome to *What to Say!*

Do you know what to say when you want to challenge someone's ideas? Listen out for useful language for challenging someone's ideas. Then, we'll practise saying the new phrases – after this.

Vanya: Guys! I've got it! I've figured it out!

Emir: Figured what out?

Paul: That it's polite to knock on the door before coming in?

Vanya: This idea is just too good, Paul! It's too good!

Paul: Go on, then.

Vanya: So! Cats!

Emir: I'm a bit lost. What are you talking about?

Vanya: Videos. Cat videos! For our social media account. Hundreds of them. Everyone loves cats!

Paul: I hate cats.

Vanya: Everyone except you, Paul.

Paul: Have you considered the fact that we're a branding agency, not a pet shop?

Vanya: I take your point, Paul, but, come on, be imaginative! Cat videos are some of the most searched videos on the internet.

Emir: I see where you're coming from, Vanya, but I think I agree with Paul here. How is this relevant for a branding agency?

Vanya: Look. Social media, it's a numbers game. If we share dozens of cat videos each day, then we get more followers.

Emir: That's true. So how exactly do you see this working? I mean, who's going to find all these videos?

Vanya: Erm, OK, I'm very aware of the challenges here, but I'm convinced this is going to work.

Paul: I'm not so sure.

Emir: Well, I guess you have to look at it from both sides. Why don't we try it for a couple of weeks and see if there's any impact?

Vanya: Great! We are going to get so many more followers. I'm absolutely positive!

Paul: Good luck with that! I hope it doesn't turn out to be a cat-astrophe ... What? ... It's a good joke.

Ana: Hello again! Well, I thought that was a good joke! So, did you notice the useful phrases used for challenging someone's ideas? Listen to me and then repeat.

I'm a bit lost. What are you talking about?

Have you considered the fact that we're a branding agency, not a pet shop?

I take your point, but be imaginative.

I see where you're coming from.

I think I agree with Paul here.

How exactly do you see this working?

I'm very aware of the challenges here, but I'm convinced this will work.

You have to look at it from both sides.

Ana: Try and use some of these phrases the next time you want to challenge someone's ideas in English. Bye for now!

Answers

Preparation task

1. b
2. f
3. d
4. g
5. c
6. a
7. h
8. e

Task 1

1. True
2. False
3. False
4. True
5. True
6. True
7. False
8. False

Task 2

1. I'm a bit lost. What are you talking about?
2. Have you considered the fact that we're a branding agency, not a pet shop?
3. I take your point, but be imaginative.
4. I see where you're coming from.
5. I think I agree with Paul here.
6. How exactly do you see this working?
7. I'm very aware of the challenges here, but I'm convinced this will work.
8. You have to look at it from both sides.

Task 3

9. lost
10. about
11. fact
12. coming
13. point
14. exactly
15. challenges
16. both