**Group Discussions Skills**

English speaking and group discussion both need practice. The more you practise, the more you improve.

1. ALWAYS INITIATE*. (Condition - if you know about the topic)*
2. Read more - Gather good knowledge about everything. Content is important. Use figures and facts. Give examples.
3. Try to be a leader, i.e., ask those people to speak who don’t talk much. *(Condition - Only after you are done with your content)*
4. Logic is important. Don’t speak stupid.
5. Make good eye contact with each participant.
6. Be confident and have good body posture.
7. Nervousness is normal but leave it outside the room. Relax, enjoy the discussion. There is always something to learn from each meeting. Notice and improve yourself.
8. It’s a DISCUSSION, not a debate. Don't get angry, don't yell.
9. Speak at least three times. If you have fewer points, speak some points at the start, let others speak and then speak again; each time, it should preferably be more than 30 seconds.
10. Always take one side for or against the topic, even if you need clarification or think either side is right. Take one side! Agreeing on both sides or no sides makes you a bad decision-maker in front of the judges.

**https://www.quora.com/How-can-I-improve-my-English-speaking-and-group-discussion-skills-in-15-days**

**Key Points to Remember for Group Discussion**

* Knowledge is strength. A candidate with good reading habits has more chances of success. In other words, sound knowledge of topics like politics, finance, economy, science, and technology is helpful.
* Power to convince effectively is another quality that makes you stand out.
* Clarity in speech and expression is yet another essential quality.
* If you are unsure about the topic of discussion, it is better not to initiate it. A lack of knowledge or a wrong approach creates a bad impression. Instead, you might adopt the wait-and-watch attitude. Listen attentively to others; maybe you can come up with a point or two later.
* A Group Discussion is a formal occasion where slang can be avoided.
* A Group Discussion is not a debating stage. Participants should express their viewpoints. Once all opinions are shared, you can and should agree or disagree.
* Language use should be simple, direct, and straightforward.
* Don't interrupt another speaker.
* Eye contact plays a significant role. Non-verbal gestures, such as listening intently or nodding while others are speaking.
* Communicate with every candidate present. While speaking, don't keep looking at a single member. Address the entire group so everyone feels you are talking to them.
* Be sure to agree on who will start or conclude the discussion.

**Stages of A Group Discussion**

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| **Stage** | **Task** | **Key Phrases** |
| **1** | Introduce the topic | Topic |
| **2** | Collect the opinions of people in the group | Opinion |
| **3** | Agree or disagree with others | Voting |
| **4** | Explain reasons to agree/disagree- use examples, data, and reasons to support your ideas. | Explaining |
| **5** | Ask others for their opinions | Asking |
| **6** | Confirm opinions | Confirming |
| **7** | Summarise ideas. | Concluding |

Practice Topics:

**Mass media**

* What is media?
* What are the advantages and disadvantages of mass media?
* Do you believe all you read in the newspapers?
* Do you watch the news on television in your country?

**Business**

* What is a business like in your country?
* What are the advantages and disadvantages of being employed?
* What are the advantages and disadvantages of being self-employed?
* Are qualifications necessary in the workplace?
* What are the most significant imports and exports in your country?
* Do you prefer to work for a small firm or a large organisation?

**Technology**

* Why is technology important?
* What are the advantages and disadvantages of technology?
* How often do you use a mobile phone?
* Which apps do you use most of the time on your mobile phone?
* Do you use a computer for work, pleasure, or both?
* Does technology make the world a smaller place?
* How will technology change in the next 10 or 20 years?
* Does technology make the world a smaller place?

**Transport**

* Can you name different types of transport?
* Do you commute to work/school?
* Do you drive? If so, do you prefer a manual or an automatic car?
* Is congestion bad in your country?
* Have you ever used the subway, metro or underground?
* What is the most unusual method of transport you have ever taken?