



Handling a different opinion

LEVEL

Upper-Intermediate (B2)

NUMBER

EN_B2_1113X

LANGUAGE

English







Learning outcomes

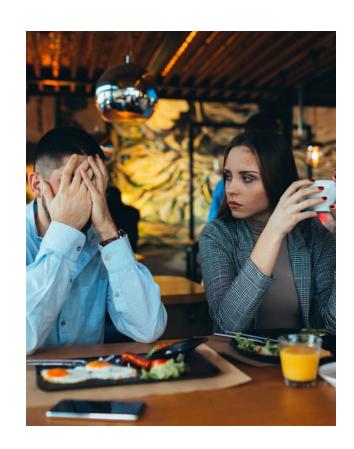
I can politely disagree with someone in a range of different situations.

 I can explain the difference between speaking objectively and speaking subjectively.

Warm-up

When was the last time you had a difference of opinion with someone?

What did you disagree on?







How to handle differences of opinion

Read the tips. **Answer** the questions below.

- Everyone is entitled to their own opinion. Even if you don't agree with someone, remember that what they believe is important to them and they deserve to be treated with respect.
- Even if someone has a controversial opinion that you strongly disagree with, it's better to keep a level head and calmly debate the issue with them. Avoid just attacking their opinion!



- 1. How should we behave towards someone we disagree with? Why?
- 2. In what kind of disagreement should we keep especially calm?





Find the pairs

Match the word in blue with the correct definition.

1	to be entitled to an opinion
2	to treat with respect
3	a controversial opinion
4	to keep a level head
5	to debate an issue

a causing disagreement or discussion

b calm

having the right to have or do something

to discuss something to find a solution or make a decision

e to behave towards someone or deal with someone in a particular way



9.

Discuss

Do you find it easy to keep a level head during a disagreement?





How can we treat others with respect even if we disagree with them?



9.

Have you ever had a disagreement with a boss or a colleague?

What was it about and how did you handle it?

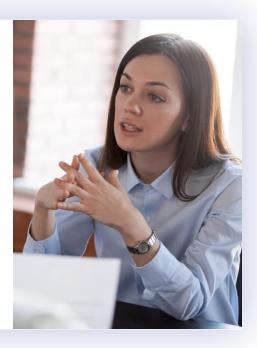




How to handle differences of opinion

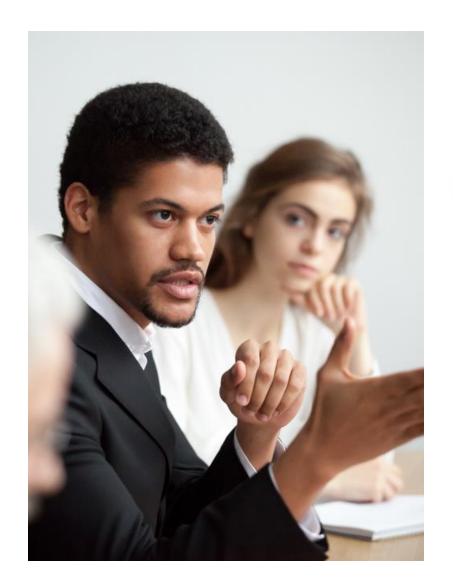
Read the rest of the tips. **Answer** the questions below.

- Think of how you are approaching the situation: are you speaking objectively or subjectively?
 - Subjectively means based on your own personal opinions and feelings.
 - Objectively means based on facts or hard evidence; not on your opinions and feelings.
- When discussing someone else's opinions, especially ones you disagree with, it's helpful to try and remain objective and stick to the facts!



- 1. What's the difference between speaking subjectively and speaking objectively?
- 2. In what kind of situation is it a particularly good idea to be objective?





Let's try to stick to the facts!

You may hear this phrase during a **disagreement**.

Based on what you've read, why might it be helpful to stick to the facts during a disagreement?





Objective or subjective statements?

- 1. **Read** the sentences below.
- 2. **Decide** if they are objective or subjective statements. **Explain** why.
- 3. **Write** your own pair of objective and subjective statements.

Paris is the perfect place for tourists.

Paris receives over 30 million visitors every year.

France has the most Michelinstar restaurants – over 627.

French cuisine is the best cuisine in the world.







Handling a different opinion



- 1. **Work** in pairs. **Choose** a situation from below.
- 2. **Plan** a role play together in breakout rooms. **Try** to be objective when necessary!



You've been working remotely for a year and love it, but your boss thinks it would be better for you to go back to working at the office.



A friend of yours thinks unemployed people are all lazy and shouldn't receive any help from the government, but you strongly disagree.



Your partner wants to start a joint social media account for you both, but you find the idea very embarrassing.





Role-play

Now **act out** your situation with your partner.



Hey, do you have a minute? I need to talk you to!

Of course! Is everything alright?



Role play 1

Boss who wants you to return to the office

Role play 2

Friend who thinks homeless people are lazy

Role play 3

Partner who wants to start a joint social media account



Let's reflect

 Can you politely disagree with someone in a range of different situations?

 Can you explain the difference between speaking objectively and speaking subjectively?

Your teacher will now make one suggestion for improvement for each student.



End of the lesson

Idiom

to lock horns with someone

Meaning: to argue or fight with someone about something.

Example: My father and I **locked horns with** each other over the date for the wedding.







Additional practice



Fill in the gaps



Choose the correct word to complete the sentence.

1	If you keep ahead, it means you remain calm and are able to handle a tricky or stressful situation.
2	It's important to everyone with the same level of respect, no matter what their beliefs are.
3	As the saying goes, everyone'sto their own opinion. That doesn't make them right!
4	My uncle has lots of opinions on immigration and women's rights. We don't see eye to eye on a lot of things.
5	During a, it's important for both sides to have equal opportunity to express their points of view.

entitled controversial level treat debate



What do you think?





Everyone can have an opinion, but that doesn't mean it's worth sharing!

Do you know anyone who has lots of strong opinions?

Would you say you are an opinionated person or not?

Are people more reserved or outspoken in your culture?







Write a short guide

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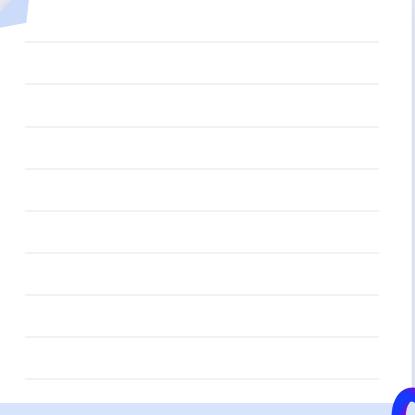
Aim to write 50-80 words.

What are your **top tips** for handling a different opinion?

Write a **short guide** for learners of English.







Answer key

P. 4: 1. Always with respect; their opinion is important to them.

2. Ones involving controversial opinions you strongly disagree with.

P.5: 1. c, 2. e, 3. a, 4. b, 5. d

P. 8: 1. Subjectively means based on your own opinions and feelings; objective means based on facts or hard evidence

2. When discussing someone else's opinions that you disagree with.

P. 10: Subjective: "Paris is the perfect.." and "French cuisine is the best..."

Objective: "Paris receives over..." and "France has the most Michelin star..."

Objective statements both contain hard evidence (i.e. facts) that cannot be

disputed. The subjective statements reflect the person's own opinions.

P. 16: 1. level

2. treat

3. entitled

4. controversial

5. debate





Summary

Differences of opinion

- entitled; to treat; controversial; a level head; to debate
- Everyone is entitled to the own opinion.
- It's better to keep a level head during a disagreement and calmly debate the issue.

Objective or subjective?

- When discussing someone else's **opinions**, especially ones you disagree with, try and remain **objective**. Objective means based on **facts** or **hard evidence**, and not on opinions or feelings.
- Subjective means based on your own personal opinion and feelings. It's the opposite of objective.



9.

Vocabulary

entitled to treat controversial a level head to debate objective facts hard evidence subjective personal opinion feelings





Notes

