

Talking about someone else's ideas

COMMUNICATION

LEVEL
Intermediate

NUMBER
EN_BE_3415X

LANGUAGE
English

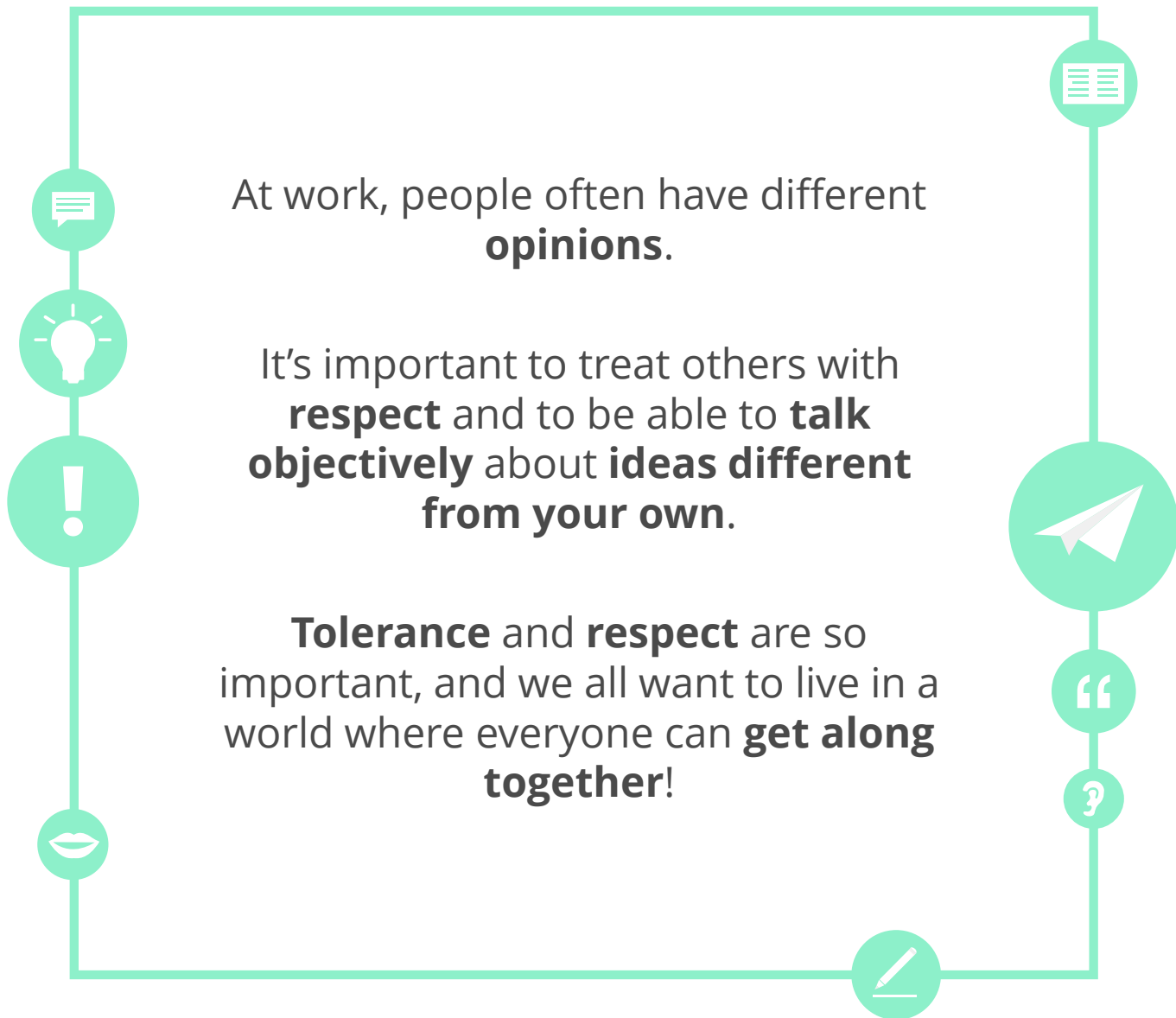




Goals

- Can understand and explain what it means to speak objectively and to speak subjectively.
- Can express a point of view objectively and politely disagree with someone in a range of complex situations.







Talking about someone else's ideas

People think differently and have different **opinions** about many different issues. From something as **simple** as the fastest way to get into the city, to more **complex** political and moral issues.



We all have different opinions, but to get along well we need to be able to **communicate** with each other and **discuss** differences of **opinion**.



Vocabulary review slide

opinion

belief

discuss

respect

debate

tolerate

view

point of view





Sentences slide



In my opinion we shouldn't invest in that company.

I think we should **discuss** the new holiday regulations – not everyone agrees with them.



Did you watch the parliamentary **debate** on TV last night?

I respect your **view** on the matter but I can't say I agree.





Sentences slide



We have these meetings so employees can share **points of view** on company issues.

I don't like the new green paint in our office but I will have to learn to **tolerate** it.



I respect your opinion but I feel differently about the issue.

It had always been his **belief** that happy employees work better.





Differences of opinion

- In our daily lives we are constantly having to navigate differences of **opinion**.
- Good **communication** and the ability to **discuss differences of opinion** is an important skill.
- By talking and treating others with **respect**, we can build **better personal and business relationships**.

- **Remember**, everyone is entitled to their own **opinion**. Even if you don't agree with someone, remember that what they believe is important to them.
- Even if someone has a **controversial opinion** that you strongly disagree with, it's probably easier to **debate** an issue peacefully rather than being **polemical**.



tolerance

To have **tolerance**, or to **tolerate** something, is to have a **willingness to accept something** that you **don't necessarily like** or **agree with**.



Tolerance in the workplace is essential for effective teamwork and progress.

acceptance

Acceptance is the **action** of **agreeing** to or **welcoming something or someone**.



Acceptance of other cultures is crucial for today's increasingly multicultural workplaces.

polemical

When something is **polemical** it is **controversial**, often **arguing** in **strong opposition** to something.



The newspaper published a **polemical** article about the upcoming vote in parliament.



Acceptance and tolerance in the workplace

Why is acceptance and tolerance in the workplace important? Think of as many reasons as you can.

Open
communication

Less stress and
anxiety

Greater
productivity



Talking about your experiences

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

Tell your teacher about what happened.

Why are tolerance and respect important when we discuss differences of opinion with others?





Tolerance and acceptance

Look at the situations on the cards below.

**How could you discuss each issue with tolerance and respect?
Practise having each discussion with your teacher and try to give your
opinion while still being respectful.**



1

Your boss wants to make English the office language at work, but not all your colleagues can speak English well so you don't think it's fair.

2

A colleague thinks homeless people are lazy and shouldn't get any help from anyone, but you disagree.

3

Your boss wants to block all social media sites at work, but you think they can be beneficial.



Speaking

Think about your current job or previous jobs you've had. How diverse was the office? Was everybody tolerant and accepting? Share your responses with the class.

objectively

When we speak about something **objectively**, we speak in a way that is **not influenced by our own personal opinions and feelings**.



Let's try to look at this situation **objectively**.

subjectively

When we speak about something **subjectively**, we speak in a way that is **influenced by our own personal opinions and feelings**.



You are thinking about this too **subjectively**. Try to calm down and not think about your own feelings for the moment.



Objective or subjective?



- There's a big difference between **objective** and **subjective**.
- Something that is **objectively true** is a fact, but something that is **subjectively true** is a matter of opinion.

- When you're talking about **someone else's opinions or ideas**, especially if you disagree with them, it's a good idea to try to remain **objective**.
- To help with remaining **objective**, consider the **facts**.
- Take time to **consider the situation** from the **other person's point of view**, not just your own.
- **Think about other people** and how they might feel differently to you, and why.



Quick quiz

**Can you explain the
terms objective and
subjective?
How are they different?**



Objective or subjective?

Look at the sentences below.

Which of these are objectively true? Which are subjective statements?

What is the difference?

Can you make 5 more objective statements and 5 subjective ones?

Paris is the most beautiful city in the world.

Paris is the largest city in France, and the capital.

The French flag uses three colours: red, white and blue.

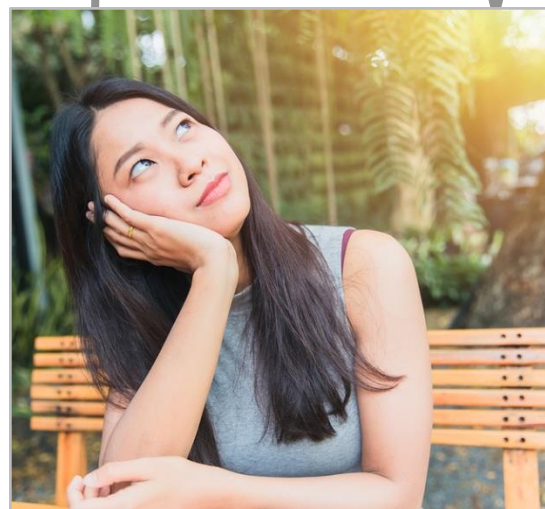
French cuisine is the best cuisine in the world.



Thinking about your own experience

When you have a difference of opinion with someone, do you find it difficult or easy to see the situation from an objective point of view?

- How do you handle a disagreement?
- What can you do to help yourself see these situations more objectively?
- Think of the last time someone had a different opinion from you at work. What could you both have done better?



Respect in the workplace

It is important that all employees feel **heard** in meetings and that no one feels **belittled**. Here are some points to bear in mind in order to ensure this:

- Encourage other colleagues, especially ones that are more **introverted**, to **give their opinions**.
- **Listen** to your co-workers. Avoid speaking over and interrupting people when they are speaking. If you have to, make sure you do this as politely as possible.
- **Never dismiss** or **disparage** other people, even if you don't agree with their ideas.
- Be aware of your **tone of voice** and your **body language**.



The importance of inclusive meetings

**Why do you think
inclusive meetings
are beneficial?**



The importance of inclusive meetings

Here are a few of the main reasons...



Making better
business
decisions

Building trust

Motivating team
members

Boosting
performance

introvert (n)
introverted (adj)

extrovert (n)
extroverted (adj)

An **introvert** is someone who is thoughtful and quiet, often feels uncomfortable in large groups and may find socialising tiresome.

An **extrovert** is someone who is outgoing and socially confident.



He had lots of great ideas in his head but was too **introverted** to share them with the team.



Being **an extrovert**, Rachel loved to sing and dance around the office.



Inclusive meetings

Imagine you are a team leader. How would you deal with the following scenarios? What steps could you take to make sure everybody in the team is included in your meetings?

An introverted member of your team feels as though their voice isn't being heard during meetings.

One or two people are always dominating the discussions in your meetings.

There are some non-native English speakers who find it difficult to keep up with discussions.

Some remote team members find it difficult to join discussions on a conference line.



Disagreeing with someone in a meeting

Imagine you are in a meeting and two of your co-workers have put forward the arguments below, with which you completely disagree. Practise respectfully disagreeing with them and then providing a counter-argument, justifying your point of view.

One of your team members is arguing that women with young children should not be allowed to have managerial positions. You completely disagree.

A new member of your team is complaining that pork is being served in your company's canteen, even though this is accepted in your country's culture.





Reflect on the goals

Go back to the second slide of the lesson and check if you have achieved all the goals of the lesson.

yes

no





Reflect on this lesson

Think about everything you have seen in this lesson.
What were the most difficult activities or words? The easiest?



If you have time, go over
the most difficult slides again





Homework writing activity

Can you write a sentence using each of the words on the cards below?

respect

point of view

acceptance

tolerance

coexist

peaceful





Homework writing activity

Think about the different issues we have talked about in this lesson. What would you say are the most important points to remember when talking about someone else's ideas?
Why is it important to treat other people's opinions with respect and tolerance?

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