

PASSIVE AGGRESSIVE BUSINESS ENGLISH

VOCABULARY LESSON

 [YOUTUBE.COM/ENGLISHWITHLUCY](https://www.youtube.com/englishwithlucy)

The English language is very powerful. We have the ability to express all sorts of emotions through the words we use. However, sometimes we shouldn't say exactly how we feel, especially in the office. This lesson will teach you important passive-aggressive phrases to express your feelings in a more pleasant way.

PASSIVE AGGRESSIVE BUSINESS PHRASES

It seems there has been a misunderstanding.

What we really mean...	Example
I gave you the necessary information, but you clearly did not follow the instructions correctly	<u>It seems there has been a misunderstanding</u> - why are you still copying in everyone on every email?

I understand it's not your fault, but...

What we really mean...	Example
it probably is your fault, and you need to fix the issue regardless.	<u>I understand it is not your fault</u> , but please go ahead and correct the contact details of every single client.

**Let's circle back later...
We'll come back to that later.**

What we really mean...	Example
what you have just said is not important at the moment	I know you want to talk about your bonus... <u>let's circle back later</u> .

Let's stick a pin in that for now.

What we really mean...	Example
This is entirely irrelevant, and we will never be looking at this again.	Actually, Bob, <u>let's stick a pin in that for now</u> . I think we have much more important matters to discuss.

**That's an interesting perspective.**

What we really mean...	Example
That is a ridiculous idea, and I cannot believe you actually said it aloud.	Thank you for your suggestion of wearing pink on Wednesdays. <u>That's an interesting perspective.</u>

As per my previous email.

What we really mean...	Example
I have already given you this information. Can you not read?	<u>As per my previous email,</u> everyone must come to work on Saturday.

We'll take that into consideration.

What we really mean...	Example
We will forget all about this after this conversation.	You want paw-ternity leave when you adopt a puppy? <u>We'll take that into consideration.</u>

Thanks for the input.

What we really mean...	Example
Your unwanted opinion is not welcome.	<u>Thanks for the input,</u> Jack! But please do not interrupt me when I'm speaking.

Let's play it by ear.

What we really mean...	Example
I hear what you are saying, but it's not going to happen.	A: The weather is so nice today. Can we move our desks outside? B: <u>Let's play it by ear</u> and focus on the tasks we need to finish.

With all due respect.

What we really mean...	Example
You are not going to like what I am about to say...	<u>With all due respect,</u> I don't think short shorts are appropriate workplace attire.

As I previously stated.

What we really mean...	Example
I have already told you, why must I repeat it?	<u>As I stated previously,</u> you cannot ask for 2 week's holiday with 1 day's notice.

**I respectfully disagree.**

What we really mean...	Example
You are wholly and utterly wrong.	Thank you for the corrections on my report, but I <u>must respectfully disagree</u> with them and change it back to how it was.

For future reference.

What we really mean...	Example
So you don't screw up again in the future.	<u>For future reference</u> , don't download any more inappropriate videos to your work laptop.

As I am sure you are aware...

What we really mean...	Example
I've told you this a million times.	<u>As I'm sure you're aware</u> , it's important to avoid eating other people's sandwiches.

BONUS**HOW TO END AN EMAIL**

Salutation	Meaning
warmest regards	I love you
kind regards	you're okay
regards	YOU'RE THE WORST

Warmest regards,
Lucy



Quiz

Complete each sentence with the correct word.

1) Thanks for the _____, but we really need to focus on meeting these goals.

- a. inept
- b. input
- c. in-depth

2) It seems there has been a _____. Why is the copier full of blue paper?

- a. misgiving
- b. misdirection
- c. misunderstanding

3) As per my _____ email, I would like everyone to clock in 10 minutes earlier.

- a. precious
- b. previews
- c. previous

4) We will definitely look into your idea, but let's _____ is by ear for now.

- a. play
- b. please
- c. plan

Choose the correct phrase to complete each sentence.

5) _____, the deadline is this Friday.

- a. I respectfully disagree
- b. As I previously stated
- c. Thanks for the input

6) _____ you still need to fix the toilet.

- a. I understand it's not your fault, but
- b. We'll take that into consideration
- c. That's an interesting perspective.

7) _____, your report was completely messed up.

- a. Let's stick a pin in that for now
- b. Let's circle back later.
- c. With all due respect,

8) I really appreciate that idea, and _____.

- a. we'll take that into consideration
- b. as per my previous email
- c. I respectfully disagree.

1) c 2) b 3) c 4) a 5) b 6) a 7) a 8) a

The End