

Appendix: list of speech acts

Expressing and finding out intellectual and emotional attitudes

expressing one's opinion

I think . . .

I feel that . . .

As far as I'm concerned . . .

asking for someone's opinion

Do you think that . . .?

What do you feel/think about . . .?

Are you sure that . . .?

giving reasons

I think . . . is right because . . .

. . . That's why I feel that . . .

. . . and so I think that . . .

asking for reasons

Why?

Why do you think that . . .?

What makes you feel that . . .?

defending one's opinion

Yes, but what I really mean is . . .

What I'm trying to say is . . .

On the contrary, I . . .

What you said is really an argument for my point of view. I feel . . .

agreeing/supporting other people's opinions

Yes, that's right.

That's what I feel, too.

I think so, too.

Exactly.

I (fully) agree with you.

X put it very well.

I feel that X is right.

X raised some good points.

What X said are the most important . . ., I feel.

OK.

disagreeing/contradicting other people's opinions

Appendix: list of speech acts

That's not . . .

You can't say that.

That's no proof.

That's not the point/question/problem . . .

But surely . . .

Oh no, . . .

stating whether something is right or wrong

True.

Wrong.

That's right.

That isn't right.

That's it exactly.

Absolutely not.

expressing certainty and uncertainty, probability and possibility

I'm absolutely certain that . . .

I'm sure that . . .

There is definitely . . .

There may be . . .

Perhaps . . .

. . . might . . .

I'm not at all sure if . . .

. . . could be . . .

I don't think that . . .

. . . is not very likely.

That could/may/might happen.

. . . is not possible.

If A happens X will come.

If A happened X would go.

making comparisons

. . . is not as . . . as . . .

. . . are as . . . as . . .

. . . is a much more important . . . than . . .

. . . are less important than . . .

There are far fewer/not as many arguments for . . . as against . . .

You can't compare . . . with . . .

You have to compare . . . with . . .

making conjectures

C could be a . . .

C looks like . . .

I think/feel that . . .

. . . makes me think of . . .

expressing interest or indifference

I'm interested in . . .

I'd like to know more about . . .

I'd like to do something on . . .

. . . sounds interesting.

... doesn't interest me.

I don't care.

What a boring topic.

expressing likes and dislikes

I love/like ...

... is great/very good/fun/fantastic.

I enjoy ...

What I like best is ...

I hate/dislike ...

What I don't like about ... is ...

I'm not at all keen on ...

stating preferences

I'd rather ...

I prefer ... to ...

I'd much rather ... than ...

praising

... is/are great/wonderful/fantastic/first rate ...

I've never ... a better/more interesting/... than ...

... is the best ... I know.

... is the most beautiful ... I've ever seen ...

expressing intentions

I'm going to ...

When I'm twenty I'll ...

In ten years' time I'll ...

I want to ...

I intend to ...

expressing personal insights

I learnt that ...

It became clear/obvious that ...

I realised that ...

I found out about ...

expressing doubt

I can't say if ...

I have my doubts about that.

Do you think that ...? I doubt it.

It's very doubtful whether ...

You haven't convinced me yet.

You may have a point there, but I'm still not sure ...

OK, but ...

Open the ..., please.

Don't ...

Stop talking ...

Never ...

giving instructions

First put the ... then ...

You have to ... before you can ...

Let me show you. The ... goes in here, this ...

Hold it upright/higher/lower.

Move ... to the right/left.

expressing understanding

I see.

I've got that.

OK.

That's clear now.

All right.

I didn't hear what you said. Could you speak up, please?

Could you say that again, please.

I didn't understand your last sentence.

Pardon?

asking for confirmation, giving confirmation

... Is that what you mean?

Do you want to say ...?

Did you say that ...?

You mean that ..., don't you?

You said ..., didn't you?

Do we have to fill everything in?

Yes, that's what I meant/wanted to say.

insisting

I have to say again that ...

I have to insist on ...

We must keep to the rules.

giving in

All right, then.

OK, you're right.

I take that back.

Perhaps I was a bit too ...

making suggestions

What about ...?

f speech acts

complaining

B never says anything.

He/she won't let me see that handout . . .

P talks all the time.

A keeps interrupting/making silly remarks . . .

You're always asking me to write things down/be your speaker . . .

Speech acts for particular situations

role play: assigning roles

Could you act . . ., Peter?

Would you like to be . . ., Peter?

Who'd like to take the part of . . .?

Which part would you like to take, Peter?

asking the way: giving directions

Turn right/left at the next traffic lights.

Walk straight on for . . .

It's the third street on your left/right.

Walk along High Street until you come to . . .

meeting people: introducing someone

This is . . . He's /she's . . .

Sandra, I'd like you to meet . . .

discussions: interrupting

Just a minute . . .

Can I butt in here?

Could you stop here for a moment?

Could I question your last point?

Before you go on, let me . . .

giving evasive answers, hesitating

I'm not sure.

I wouldn't know.

Well, let me think.

I can't say.

Well, . . .