

CHAPTER 2

Opinions & Thoughts

KOMPETENSI DASAR

- 3.2 Menerapkan fungsi sosial, struktur teks, dan unsur kebahasaan teks interaksi transaksional lisan dan tulis yang melibatkan tindakan memberi dan meminta informasi terkait pendapat dan pikiran, sesuai dengan konteks penggunaannya. (Perhatikan unsur kebahasaan *I think, I suppose, in my opinion.*)
- 4.2 Menyusun teks interaksi transaksional, lisan dan tulis, pendek dan sederhana, yang melibatkan tindakan memberi dan meminta informasi terkait pendapat dan pikiran, dengan memperhatikan fungsi sosial, struktur teks, dan unsur kebahasaan yang benar dan sesuai konteks

A Pre-Activity

With a partner, read the conversational text given.



(Source: kemendikbud)

Siti

Why are you looking so sad?

I was reading an opinion article on bullying. It made me extremely sad.

Ah! People like to exaggerate things, bullying as such is no big deal.

No, I don't think so. Bullying is prevalent in our society. It is important that everyone should be made aware of this social evil.

I don't agree with you. Little bit teasing here and there is acceptable.

I am of the opinion that no one has any right to harass or make people feel inferior. No one should have that kind of power.

Hey! Stop! You are getting too serious!

Yes! You should be serious about it as well. I would like to point out that bullying is everyone's problem and responsibility. If you condone bullying in any way, shape or form it means you are taking part in it whether it is directly or indirectly by being silent.



(Source: kemendikbud)

Jane

Discuss these questions with your partner.

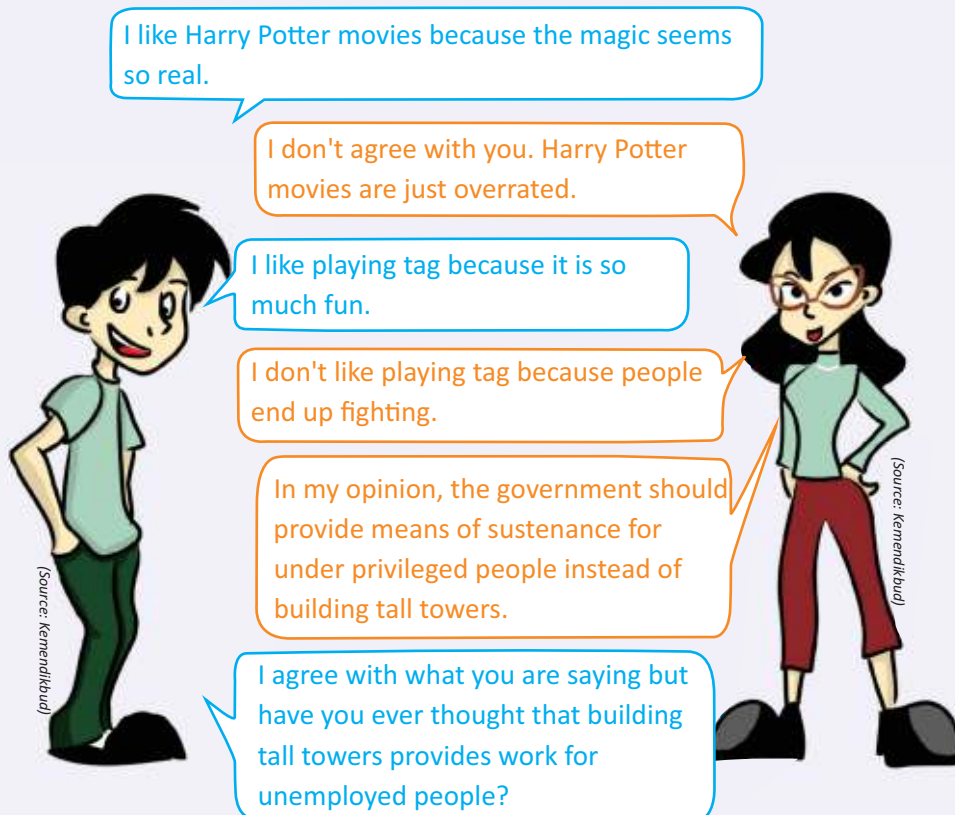
1. What is happening between Siti and Jane?
2. What kind of conversation are they having?
3. Whom do you agree with, Jane or Siti? Why?
4. Have you witnessed bullying? Describe how you felt.

B Building Blocks

Opinions

An opinion is the way you feel or think about something. Our opinion about something or someone is based on our perspective. Whenever we give or express our opinion, it is important to give reasoning or an example to support our opinion.

Some Opinions:



DID YOU
KNOW



We can use collocations to express opinions, for example strong argument, strong criticism, strong denial, strong opinion, strong resistance, quite strongly.



Let's look at the sentence structure to express opinions.

Subject	Verb	Object
I	agree	with what you are saying.
We	believe	this is not the right way to handle things.
I	reckon	this could be right considering the reasons you have provided.
I	agree	that I didn't look at it from this perspective.
I	doubt	that this is possible.
We	assume	you are biased on this issue.
I	don't agree	with you.
I	think	you are mistaken.
I	think	so too.

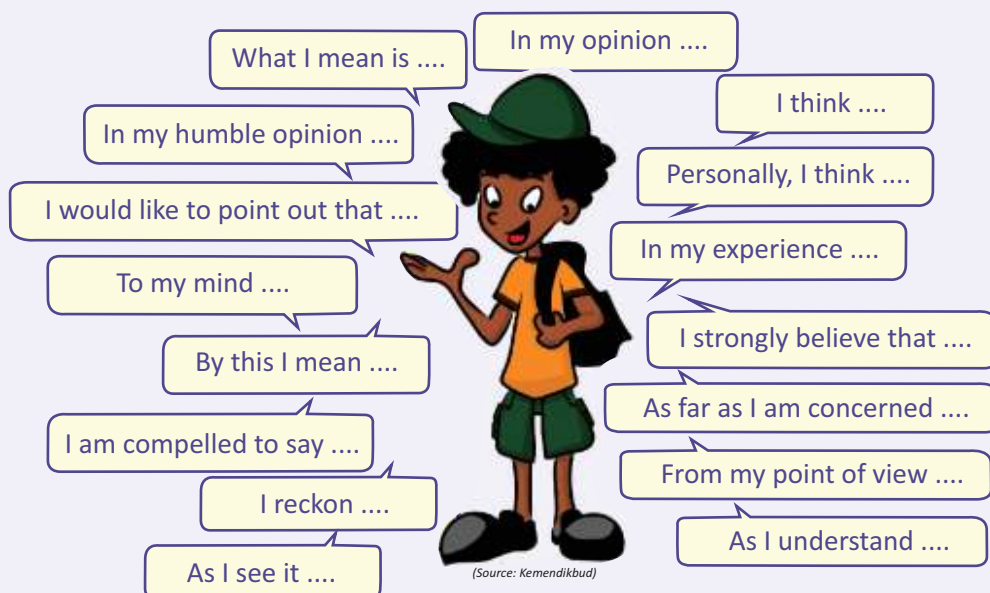
Table 2.1 Sentence structure to express opinions

Expressions

Opinions can be expressed in the ways given below.

Personal Point of View

These expressions are used to show personal points of view.



General Point of View

These expressions are used to show a general point of view. A general point of view creates a balance in writing and helps avoid absolute statements.

Most people do not agree

Generally it is accepted

Almost everyone

The majority disagree with

Some people say that

The majority agree with

Some people believe

It is sometimes argued

Of course, many argue

It is considered

While some people believe



**DID YOU
KNOW**

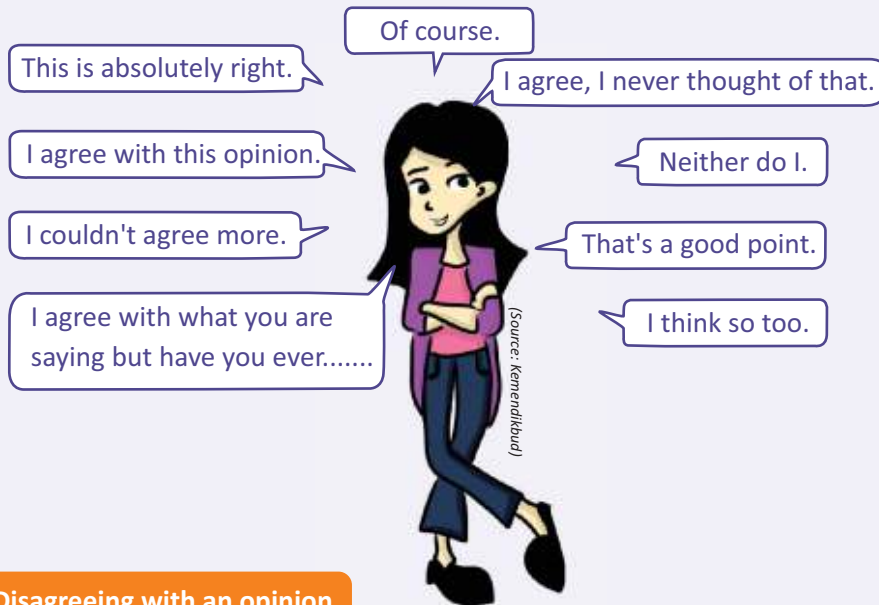


You can agree or disagree as long as you have a reason for your opinion.



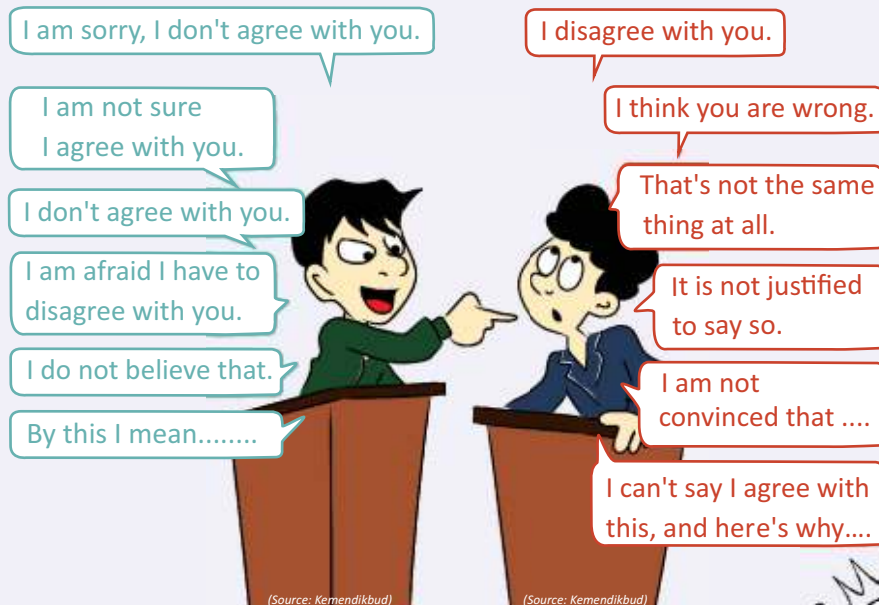
Agreeing with an Opinion

These are some of the expressions used to express agreement with an opinion.



Disagreeing with an opinion

These are the expressions used to express disagreement with an opinion.



Opinions can be expressed using mental verbs like believe, think, doubt, assume, feel, etc.



Examples of Opinions:

- I reckon he might have been bullied in school.
- To be honest, I never thought that bullying was so prevalent in most schools.
- I believe bullying is totally an unacceptable practice in our school.
- I am not convinced that the majority of the people are not aware of this issue.

Examples of how to agree and disagree with an opinion

Statement	Agree	Disagree
Smoking should be banned in public places.	I totally agree that smoking should be banned in public places.	I am sorry but I tend to disagree with you on this.
Bullying is so prevalent in most schools.	I couldn't agree more with you.	I think it would be wrong to generalize.
Women should not work.	I think so too. Women should stay at home and take care of their children.	I am afraid I have to disagree with you on this.
Harry Potter series is much better than Twilight series.	Yes, I agree. Harry Potter series has a much better and well-developed story line.	It's not justified to say because both have different plots.
Online gaming should be banned.	Absolutely right. It should be as it distracts students from studying.	I don't agree with you. It is a venue for students to develop their skills.

Table 2.2 Agreeing and disagreeing with opinions



Let's Practice

A. Fill in the blanks using the opinion expressions given in the box below.

1. I _____ with you bullying should be banned.
2. It is all right if you don't agree with me but I have every right to my _____.
3. As far as I _____, I will not support bullying in my school.
4. I _____ that medical care should be free for everyone.
5. Some people _____ eating fish and yogurt at the same time causes a severe skin disease.
6. I feel quite _____ about this issue.

totally agree, opinion, am concerned, strongly believe,
believe that, strongly

B. Below are several opinions. Some of them are polite and some impolite. Highlight an opinion with:

red: if it is an impolite way of disagreeing.

blue: if it is a polite way of disagreeing.

green: if it is a polite way of giving an opinion.

yellow: if it is an impolite way of giving an opinion.


1. I am afraid, I don't agree with you on this matter.

2. I agree with you to a certain point but I would appreciate if you look at it from another point of view.
3. That's an interesting idea but I think our idea is much better.
4. Do you really think like that?
5. Rubbish! Nonsense! I don't agree with this.
6. Actually, as a matter of fact, I think we can look at it again and decide.
7. This is what I am getting at.
8. You want to know what I think? Let me tell you what I think.
9. I feel compelled to disagree with you on this matter.
10. I find it rather silly that you think like this.
11. I think we should all work together to rid our society of social evils.
12. It occurs to me that you have closed your mind against any right opinion.
13. As far as I can say, this club is going to dogs.
14. You make a strong case for changing all the rules, but I think you might have overlooked the fact that it is not possible.
15. This is the most distasteful book I have ever read.
16. To my mind, this is the truth and I believe it.
17. The food here is absolutely inedible.
18. I understand where you are coming from, but you have to look at it from our perspective as well.
19. You have a point, but have you ever thought how poor people on the street feel?
20. This opinion is absolutely useless. Please get out of here.

D Active Conversation

Complete the following transactional conversations. Using the role-play approach, reenact the conversation with your classmates.


Buying a New Car



(Source: kemendikbud)

I think we should buy a new car.

Why? Our old car is fine and functional.



(Source: kemendikbud)

Banning of Cigarettes



(Source: kemendikbud)


I believe that smoking should be banned.

I don't think I agree with you.



(Source: kemendikbud)

Songs




(Source: kemendikbud)

What kind of music do you like?

I like rock and roll.

How can you like rock and roll? It is so loud.



(Source: kemendikbud)



Writing Connection

Choose one of the topics given below. Create a dialogue of your opinion about your chosen topic. Follow the opinion giving technique you have learnt in the building blocks.

- Do you think education is a right or a privilege? Support your opinion with reasons and examples.
- Do you think conservation of wildlife is important? Support your opinion with reasons and examples.
- Time is more important than money. Support your opinion with reasons and examples.
- Exploitation of natural resources is a major problem in Indonesia. Support your opinion with reasons and examples.
- Do you think gaming affects the life of teenagers? Support your opinion with reasons and examples.

A large rectangular box with a light yellow background and a thin purple border, containing 25 horizontal purple lines for writing.

Let's Create/Contribute

Choose one of the activities given below.

1. The objective of this activity is to gather opinions of people by conducting an interview. With a partner, choose a topic, preferably a social issue, for example social media, smoking, corruption, global warming, pollution, poverty, drug abuse, etc. Write a series of interview questions of not more than 6 that will help you collect opinions of people on the issue you have chosen. After the interview, create a dialogue using the opinions you have collected. You can present your work in the form of a role play, a poster, a movie or a PowerPoint presentation. Make sure you share it in your class.

Sample questions on the issue of corruption for the interview:

- What is corruption (in your opinion)?
 - Do you think that corruption is prevalent in our society?
 - How would you define corruption?
 - Do you think corruption should be a punishable crime?
 - Do you think the government is making enough efforts to eradicate corruption from our society?
 - What are you doing to help eradicate corruption?
2. With a classmate, write an opinion conversation using the expressions you have learnt in the building blocks. Using the role-play approach, reenact it in front of the class.
 3. Find an editorial in any English newspaper or magazine. Use the Visible Thinking technique or “Reporter's Notebook” to identify and separate facts and opinions from this article. Work in groups of five.
Focus on the following points:
 - Identify an issue or dilemma from the article.
 - Identify facts and opinions.
 - See if you understand them or you need more information.
 - After the discussion with your group members and teacher, express your opinion based on the information you have at hand.
 4. Smoking should be banned in public places. What is your opinion? What is the opinion of other people in your class on this issue? Do you agree or disagree with this opinion? Debate with your classmates on this issue. Work in groups of five or ten.



Formative Assessment

I can do this.

Complete these statements.

1. The most interesting thing I learned in this chapter was _____
2. The part I enjoyed most was _____
3. I would like to find more about _____
4. The hardest part in this chapter was _____
5. I need to work harder at _____

Read the statements below and tick (✓) the option that is most applicable to you.

	Definitely	Yes	Maybe	No	Not at all
The conversation was easy to understand.					
I know how to express opinions.					
I could debate with my classmates.					
I can write an opinion article.					
I could write a dialogue.					

My plan to overcome the difficulties of this chapter