

Speaking situations

Agree or disagree with someone

That's right. You're right.	No, that's not right. You're not right.
That's correct.	No, that's not true.
Absolutely, exactly	I don't think you're right.
That's exactly what I think.	Well, I don't see it that way.
I agree.	I disagree.
I feel the same about ...	I'm sorry, I can't agree with you about ...
I am also convinced that ...	It's simply not true that ...

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of something

One advantage of this is ...	On the negative side, ...
One of the chief advantages is ...	A negative aspect is ...
One of the main advantages is ...	On the other hand, not everything is positive.
A positive aspect is surely ...	Unfortunately, ...
There are many benefits.	

Narrate and summarize the plot of a book or film

The story concerns ...
The book has to do with ...
To sum it all up, ...
At first, ... Later, ... In the period which follows, ... Towards the end, ... In the end, ...
Exposition, development, climax, denouement
Overall concept, theme, symbols
Protagonist, main character

Express an opinion

I feel that ...
My feeling is that ...
In my opinion, ...
Personally, I think...
It seems to me that ...
In general ...
Generally speaking ...
On the whole, ...

Describe a person, scene, or object

On a superficial level, ... Externally, ... Physically,
On a deeper level, ...
Essentially,
“X” presents (four) main characteristics: ...

Relate the differences between two different but not opposite points of view

“X” tends to emphasize “A” while “Y” places the emphasis on “B”.
“X” seems to ignore completely “A” whereas “Y” acknowledges that “A” ...
Although “X” recognizes “A”, his approach is ...
They both tend to view the matter as ..., but differ on ...

Agree or disagree with a given opinion

As “X” has made clear, ...
I’m not at all persuaded by “Y” when he says ...
“X” makes a convincing argument when he states ...
How can anybody truly believe “Y” when he declares ...

Ask an opinion

What’s your opinion?
What’s your opinion about ...
What do you think about ...
How do you feel about ...
Does this seem “X” to you, or do you agree with me that “Y”?

Persuade someone

Let me put it another way. ...
Try to see it from this point of view. ...
Surely you must agree that “X” ...
But consider ...
But think about it like this. ...
You can’t deny the fact that ...
What I’m trying to say is ...
What I really mean is ...
My point is that ...

Express certainty and uncertainty

I'm quite certain about this.	I may be wrong, but I think ...
There's no question that ...	I've got a feeling that ...
Definitely.	I suppose ...
Absolutely.	
I know for sure that ...	
"X", and that's a fact!	

Check and verify information

What exactly do you mean by "X"?
What exactly do you mean when you say "X"?
We need to agree on what "X" means.
Tell me a bit more about "X".
Can you give us an example of ...?
Could you explain that point?
Do I understand correctly that ...?