

SPEAKING

ASKING AND EXPRESSING OPINIONS

Speaking is a productive skill in oral mode. Speaking skills are the skills that give us the ability to communicate effectively. These skills allow the speaker, to convey the message in a passionate, thoughtful, and convincing manner.

Asking for and expressing opinions is something we frequently do in every day English. We will need to ask and give opinions in formal situations such as in business, in writing, both academic and informal texts, and in informal speaking.

Example:

- It seems to me that the government should reduce trade tariffs. (Formal)
- What do you reckon to these shoes? (Informal)

There are so many ways to express an opinion in English and it's important that how you use them. The way you choose to express an opinion can alter the way people think of you and look at you every day.

This is especially true in British English, where we are obsessed with politeness and not being too assuming. There are several phrases that we can use for expressing and asking opinions. That is,

Guidelines:

- Be thoroughly aware of the subject.
- Know the audience; tailor your speech to meet their needs.
- Rehearse your speech well and time it.
- Practice good articulation.
- Make exaggerated use of articulators.
- Pay attention to proper diction, pronunciation & stress.
- Use voice modulation

Example:1

- "Lisa," said Kyle, "I need help moving this box of toys for the garage sale. Will you help me?"

- "Sure!" Lisa put her book down and moved to lift one end of the box for her brother. She glanced down into the box. "Hey!" she exclaimed. "You can't give away your Harry Potter collection!"
- "Well, I am not taking them to college with me." Kyle smiled at his little sister. "Do you want them?"
- "Yes!" Lisa smiled back. "I will read them all again, and it will remind me of how we used to pretend to be Harry and Hermione."
- "They are yours, Squirt." As Kyle smiled at his sister, he realized how much things would change in the next few days.

