



## Debating - Useful Expressions

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### 1. to order a sequence of arguments

firstly - secondly - finally  
 to begin/start with - next - lastly  
 first of all - and also  
 let me begin by pointing out - and besides  
 in addition to this  
 furthermore / moreover

Essentially, the problem is ...  
 to top it all  
 basically  
 besides  
 above all  
 what is more

### 2. to express one's personal opinion

In my opinion / view ...  
 To my mind ...  
 It seems to me that ... (> tentative)  
 I feel / think / believe that ... (> neutral)  
 I have the feeling / the impression that ...

As I see it, ...  
 I rather think that ...  
 I am sure that ...  
 I am convinced that ...(> strong)  
 certainly / surely / possibly

### 3. to state something as a fact

There can be no doubt that ...  
 It is a fact that ...

Everyone knows that ...  
 indeed / actually

### 4. to be evasive (ausweichend)

I'm afraid I can't give you a definitive answer at present.  
 Sorry to sound evasive, but there is no straightforward answer to that.  
 I'd need more information to answer your question.

### 5. to express and qualify one's argument

That is a very important point.  
 I couldn't agree more.  
 This can only / not be accepted if / on condition that / in case / unless ...

That seems reasonable.  
 admittedly / admitting this

### 6. complete agreement (völlige Zustimmung)

I agree.  
 I agree completely / entirely.  
 I think you're quite right.  
 I think so, too.  
 I don't think so, either.

That's exactly what I think.  
 That's just what I was thinking.  
 Yes, definitively.  
 That's right.

### 7. qualified agreement (zurückhaltende Zustimmung )

maybe / perhaps (not)  
 I see your point.  
 That seems reasonable.

To a certain degree ...  
 Yes, up to a point ...

### 8. to express one's disagreement or doubt

I don't quite agree here.  
 I cannot accept your view that ...  
 I cannot share this view.

### 9. qualified or polite disagreement

That seems obvious.  
 Do you really think so?  
 I wouldn't say so.  
 I don't know.  
 I'm not quite so sure.

although  
 nevertheless / still  
 even so  
 yet  
 however



## 10. definite disagreement

I don't think so.  
I don't agree with you.  
I can't agree, I'm afraid.

That's not how I see it.  
I disagree (completely).  
I don't agree at all.

## 11. to discuss the pros and cons

on the one hand - on the other hand  
There are two sides to this question: ...  
An argument for this would be ...  
- Others against it are ...

Some people think ... - Others say ...  
however  
yet  
but

## 12. to summarize one's arguments

To conclude...  
In conclusion...  
It follows from this that...

To sum up...  
so  
therefore

## 13. making suggestions and recommendations

I'd like to hear your ideas on this.  
Any suggestions?  
Do any of you have any suggestions?  
What do you recommend / suggest?

It might be a good idea to ...  
I think we should ...  
Have you thought of ... *+gerund / noun*  
I see no alternative but to ...

## 14. to give reasons

The reason for this is that ...  
There is no reason why ...  
because

since  
as

## 15. to interrupt someone

If I could just make a point here.  
Sorry to interrupt, but I'd just like to say that ...  
Could I make a suggestion?

## 16. to give in gracefully

I suppose you're right somehow.  
There's something in what you say, I guess.  
I guess you are right.  
It's just that I was thinking of.

## 17. to apologize

I am terribly / awfully / very / really sorry that ...  
I sincerely apologize for (not) ... *+gerund / noun*  
I greatly / deeply regret ...  
I do / must / would like to / wish to / sincerely apologize for ... *+gerund / noun*  
I hope you will excuse /forgive me for (not) ... *+gerund / noun*  
Please, accept my apologies.

### Note:

Never say or write "**I beg your pardon**" if you want to apologize for something, the meaning of this expression being that you haven't understood and would like the other person to repeat.

**Excuse me!** is not so much a true apology as a polite remark enabling you to make a request or cover up a slight disturbance.

**"Sorry"** is a true apology, i.e. when stepping on someone's foot.