

Discussion phrases: How to learn and practice them.

1. Work with a partner and find a German equivalent. You may want to use a dictionary.
2. Cut out the phrases and categorize them according to the following criteria either individually or together in class. For the latter the phrases should be blown up and tacked to a poster.
 - *Give your opinion*
 - *Agree with others*
 - *Disagree with others*
 - *Give reasons*
 - *Try to find a compromise*
 - *Buy yourself time to think*
 - *Interrupt someone*
 - *Conclude the argument*
3. Choose a controversial topic and discuss with your partner, e.g. "Should the use of cell phones be allowed during class?"
4. Decide who is going to argue for and against the motion and make a list of arguments.
5. Discuss and try to use as many phrases as possible.

Alternative/additional approaches: Get rid of your sentences.

Team work: Four students are given a small number of phrases which have to be used once in the course of the discussion. The student who first gets rid of their phrases is the winner.

Let me make this crystal clear...	Hold on!
I couldn't agree more.	This is just ridiculous.
I think we can draw the following conclusion...	You have hit the nail on the head because...
I'm trying to answer your question...	You must be joking.
May I just butt in here and...	It has become quite clear by now that...
Something similar happened to me the other day.	I see things totally differently.
I can see your point.	I cannot accept that at all.
You're absolutely right there.	This is really beside the point.

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I think you've missed the point completely.	You must be kidding.
Do you really mean to say that...	I have never thought of that before.
This is just a cliché. ['- -]	I see things in a totally different light now.
I have read about that recently.	I can't follow you there, I'm afraid.
I'm not with you there.	Let me give you another example.
To my mind.../ I think.../ In my opinion...	Of course, you are right in saying that... but...
On the one hand... on the other hand...	The fact of the matter is...
I hold the view that...	There are a number of reasons... first(ly)... second(ly)... third(ly)...
Let me see... I haven't really thought about this before.	Could you say that again? I didn't quite catch that.
That's an interesting idea, but...	I beg to disagree.
That's an interesting question.	There is some common ground between us here.