**LANGUAGE OF DISCUSSSIONS**

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| **GETTING INTO A DISCUSSION** | **MAKING A DIGRESSION** |
| One interesting thing/matter is …. | On an unrelated note, …. |
| May I ask a question? What do you think about …. | Let me make a digression here: … |
| ... Let’s discuss the point. | **POINTING OUT A PARADOX OR AN INTERESTING POINT** |
| … That is an interesting point to discuss. Can we talk about it? | Paradoxically, … |
| **DRAWING OTHERS INTO A DISCUSSSION** | Strangely (enough), … |
| Joanna, what's your opinion? | Curiously, …. |
| How do you feel about that? | Surprisingly, …. |
| What do you think about . . . ? | **INDICATING CONTRAST AND EXPRESSING ALTERNATIVES** |
| Do you agree with that? | While ..., |
| Any other ideas? | … By contrast, … |
| **INVITING PARTICIPANTS TO COMMENT ON A POINT** | … However, … |
| Would you like to add something to that? | Although ….. (+ sentence) |
| Would you like to comment? | In spite of/ Despite ~~of~~ (+ noun, e.g. the fact that) … |
| What do you think Joanna? | On the one hand, …. On the other, … |
| **GIVING SOME INFORMATION** | … In comparison … |
| I'd like to say something here. | Alternatively, … |
| I'd like to comment on that. | One other alternative is (to) … |
| May I say something here? | Another possibility is to … |
| May I add something? | **EXPRESING YOUR OPINION** |
| **MOVING ON TO ANOTHER POINT** | **DIPLOMATICALLY:** |
| Let’s move on to the second point. | It seems to me that … |
| The second point I want to make is (that) … | As far as I know … |
| **GIVING EXAMPLES** | People say … |
| For example, … | It is commonly said that … |
| To be more specific, … | I've heard that … |
| For instance ….. | **NEUTRALLY:** |
| Let me give you an example, … | I think … |
| **CLARIFYING COMMENTS** | I believe … |
| In other words, … | I'm pretty sure/certain … |
| Let me put it another way. | **WITH CONVICTION:** |
| The point I want to make is this./ that… | I am positive/sure about/certain of that. |
| **ASKING FOR CLARIFICATION/EXPLANATION** | I'm convinced … |
| I am not sure I follow you. Could you explain that again, please? | I honestly believe/think … |
| Could you elaborate on that point? | **AGREEING WITH SOMEBODY’S POINT OF VIEW (WITH GROWING DEGREE OF CERTAINTY)** |
| Could you clarify your last point? | I suppose so. |
| What exactly do you mean? | I guess you're right. |
| Could you be more specific? | I agree. |
| **CLARIFYING/EXPLAINING** | Absolutely. |
| Let me explain. | I totally agree. |
| What I means is …. | I couldn't agree more. |
| The point I am trying to make is this: | **DISAGREEING** |
| **INTERRUPTING** | I suppose not. |
| Can I just interrupt you here? | Sorry, but I couldn’t agree with you on that. |
| Let me interrupt for a minute. | Absolutely not. |
| Sorry to interrupt, but . . . | I totally disagree. |
| Excuse me, but . . . | How can you say that. |
| **MOVING THE DISCUSSION TO A DIFFERENT ISSUE** | **SUMMARISING** |
| That’s not really relevant here. What really matters is .. | If I understand correctly, you're saying that … |
| This is not the point here. Let’s keep top the main question which is … | In other words, you're saying … |
|  | I'll sum up the points so far: |
|  | To sum up, …. |
|  | In conclusion, … |