

FluentMinds Podcast - Episode 2B Script

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Topic: Agreeing and Disagreeing Politely in Business Meetings

[Opening - 0:00]

Alex: Let's be honest - most English learners aren't afraid of vocabulary. They're afraid of sounding rude when they disagree. Or worse, afraid of speaking at all in a room full of colleagues.

That's exactly why we made this episode.

Welcome to FluentMinds Podcast, Episode 2B - where we give you the exact phrases, pronunciation tips, and professional tone you need to speak with confidence in any business meeting.

Today's focus? How to agree and disagree - politely, clearly, and naturally.

Whether you're talking to a coworker or pushing back in front of a client, you'll learn:

- How to soften your tone without losing authority
- Where to pause for clarity
- And how to sound like you belong at the table

Welcome back to the FluentMinds Podcast. This is Episode 2B, and today we're tackling a challenge that even advanced English learners struggle with: how to agree or disagree politely in business meetings - without sounding passive or confrontational.

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Sam: Oh, I need this. I never know how to disagree without sounding rude... or like I'm apologizing for existing.

Alex: You're not alone. We're going to walk through four professional phrases, break down the pronunciation, and give you tips on how to sound confident, clear, and polite - all at once.

[Phrase 1 - "I see your point, but..."]

Alex: Okay. First phrase: "I see your point, but..."

It's perfect for showing you've listened - before gently disagreeing.

Sam: I see your point... but...

Alex: Let's break it down.

Say it with me: "I see your point, but..."

Now again - but this time, connect "your point" and let your tone fall slightly at the end. Ready?

Sam: I see your point, but...

Alex: Nice. You don't want to go up at the end - that makes it sound uncertain. Listen:

"I see your point... but?" (rising tone - sounds unsure)

Now the correct version:

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"I see your point, but." (falling tone - calm and in control)

Synonyms? You could say:

"That's a valid point, though I'd add..."

"I understand where you're coming from, however..."

Sam: Okay - and how formal is this?

Alex: Great question. It's neutral-professional. Good for team meetings, client calls, even emails. Just don't follow it with "you're wrong."

[Phrase 2 - "Can I offer another perspective?"]

Alex: Phrase two: "Can I offer another perspective?"

Super polite - very useful when someone just shared an idea and you want to gently introduce yours.

Sam: Can I offer another perspective?

Alex: Good. Let's break it into chunks.

"Can I offer" - rise on "offer," that's your main stress.

"another perspective" - light rise on "another," then drop your tone on "perspective." This is where you sound calm and clear.

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Now say it slowly with me:

Can I offer another perspective?

One breath. Confident. Controlled.

Fun fact for learners: "perspective" is often mispronounced. Be careful - it's per-SPEC-tive, not pre-spect-ive.

Synonyms?

"May I suggest a different angle?" (more formal)

"Here's another way to look at it..." (slightly more casual)

[Phrase 3 - "I'd like to push back on that slightly."]

Alex: Third one: "I'd like to push back on that slightly."

It sounds assertive, but not aggressive. Common in business, especially tech or strategic discussions.

Sam: I'd like to push back on that slightly.

Alex: Let's break it down:

"I'd like to" -> this is usually reduced to "I'd like ta" in fast speech

"push back on that" -> stress on "push" and "that"

"slightly" -> soft landing - don't punch it too hard

Let's put it all together:

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I'd like ta push BACK on THAT... slightly.

Now try it again - smooth but clear.

You can also say:

"I'm not fully convinced just yet."

"Can we explore that a bit more?"

Curious detail - "push back" sounds physical, but in business English it's metaphorical: you're resisting gently.

[Phrase 4 - "Absolutely. And to add to that..."]

Alex: Final one: "Absolutely. And to add to that..."

This is a great agreement phrase. Confident, enthusiastic, supportive.

Sam: Absolutely. And to add to that...

Alex: Let's work on intonation. Start with high pitch on "Absolutely," pause, then continue in a softer tone.

Sam: Absolutely. (pause) And to add to that...

Alex: Beautiful. That pause adds clarity.

Synonyms?

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"Exactly - and just to build on that..."

"For sure... Plus..."

Sam: What about "I totally agree"?

Alex: That works too, but it's less formal. "Absolutely" feels polished and professional.

[Recap - Practice Together]

Alex: Okay - let's recap and repeat each one, with proper rhythm and stress.

Alex: Say it with us:

- I see your point, but...
- Can I offer another perspective?
- I'd like to push back on that slightly.
- Absolutely. And to add to that...

Sam: I see your point, but...

Sam: Can I offer another perspective?

Sam: I'd like to push back on that slightly.

Sam: Absolutely. And to add to that...

Alex: Amazing job.

[Closing - Preview Next Episode]

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Alex: Next time in Episode 2C - we'll tackle how to speak to your boss.

- Giving updates
- Asking for more time
- Pushing back without sounding defensive

Sam: Oof. That's gonna be useful.

Alex: Subscribe, download the worksheet below, and remember: speak it until it sounds like you.