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Functions Bank

Talking about likes and dislikes

I can't stand ... (1A)
 I don't mind ... (1A)
 I hate ... (1A)
 I love ... (1A)
 I quite like ... (1A)
 I'm really keen on ... (1A)
 ... isn't bad. (1A)
 ... is great. (1A)
 ... is terrible. (1A)

Asking for / Giving advice

What can I do? (1C)
 Can I ask your advice about something? (1C)
 I think / don't think you should ... (1C)
 Why don't you...? (1C)
 You need to... (1C)
 You have to... (1C)
 ... That's my advice. (1C)
 You're right. Thanks for your advice. (1C)

Reacting and showing interest

You're joking / kidding! (1G)
 How boring / funny / frustrating / exciting / upsetting / awful! (1G)
 That's amazing / exciting / worrying / shocking! (1G)
 That sounds great / terrible / annoying / terrifying! (1G)
 What a cool thing to do! (1G)
 Really? I'm so envious! (1G)
 Really? What a relief! (1G)
 That sounds like a nightmare! (1G)
 Oh no! What a disaster / shame! (1G)

Describing a photo

The photo shows ... (2G)
 in the foreground / background (2G)
 in the top left corner / bottom right corner (2G)
 at the top / bottom (2G)
 on the left / right (2G)
 in the centre (2G)
 It looks like a ... (2G)
 It looks as if they're ... (2G)
 She seems to be ... (2G)

Speculating about a photo

She's probably feeling ... and ... (2G)
 I expect they're feeling ... , but maybe a bit ... (2G)
 Judging by ... , I'd say ... (2G)
 To me, they look as if they're feeling ... (2G)
 It can't be ... because ... (4G)
 It must be ... because ... (4G)

Making suggestions

Shall we ... ? (2H)
 Let's ... (2H)
 Do you fancy ... ? (2H)
 How / What about ... ? (2H)
 It would be nice to ... (2H)
 We could always ... (2H)
 Why don't we ...? (6G)

Expressing likes and dislikes

I quite fancy... / I don't really fancy (3G)
 I'm / I'm not a big fan of ... (3G)
 I'm / I'm not keen on ... (3G)
 I adore ... / I can't stand ... (3G)

Expressing a preference

I'd rather ... (3G)
 I'd prefer (to) ... (3G)
 I think ... will be better / more fun, etc. (3G)

Reaching an agreement

Shall we settle on ... ? (3G)
 OK, I agree. (3G)
 That's agreed, then. (3G)
 That's a great idea. (3G)

Expressing opinions

I think / I don't think that ... (4E)
 In my opinion, ... (4E)
 I believe / don't believe that ... (4E)
 It seems to me that ... (4E)
 To be honest, ... (4E)
 As I see it, ... (4E)
 I imagine that ... (8G)

Agreeing and disagreeing

I agree / disagree with (Emma) that ... (4E)

(Tom) is right / wrong to say that ... because ... (4E)

It's true that ... (4E)

I don't agree that ... (9D)

I agree that ... (9D)

I'm not sure that ... (9D)

I wouldn't say that ... (9D)

Comparing and contrasting: similarities

The common theme in the photos is ... (4G)

You can see ... in both photos. (4G)

Both photos show ... (4G)

In both photos there are ... (4G)

Comparing and contrasting: differences

The first photo shows ... , whereas the second photo shows ... (4G)

In the first photo ... , but in the second photo ... (4G)

One obvious difference is (that) ... (4G)

Unlike the first photo, the second photo shows ... (4G)

In contrast to the first photo, the second photo ... (4G)

Making contrasts

I'm sure I'll enjoy it even though ... (5G)

Although it's ... , it will be very ... (5G)

The job is quite However, I really don't want to work in a ... (5G)

The ... isn't very good. Nevertheless, I'm choosing this job because I'm interested in ... (5G)

Accepting a suggestion

That sounds like a great idea. (6G)

What a good idea! (6G)

I like that idea. (6G)

That's a really good plan.

Yes. Why not? (6G)

Let's do that. (6G)

Declining a suggestion

I'm not sure about that. (6G)

I don't think that's a great idea. (6G)

I'm not very keen on that idea. (6G)

I'd rather not. (6G)

Expressing no preference

I don't mind. (6G)

Either suggestion is fine by me. (6G)

They're both good ideas. (6G)

Structuring your speech

I'd like to start by saying / looking at ... (7G)

First of all, we need to decide / examine / look at / ask ourselves ... (7G)

I'll begin with ... (7G)

Now I'd like to move on to ... (7G)

This leads to my next point. (7G)

Now let's look at / move on to (the question of ...) (7G)

Ordering points or opinions

First, ... Second, ... Finally, ... (7G)

Justifying your opinions

There are a number of reasons why I believe this. First, ... (7G)

I'll tell you why I think that. (7G)

The reason I say that is ... (7G)

The main reason I feel this way is ... (7G)

Summing up your opinion

To sum up, ... / In conclusion, ... / All in all, ... (7G)

Just to summarise the main points ... (7G)

Giving a tentative opinion

I'm not sure really. (8G)

I agree to some extent. (8G)

I suppose it's true to say that ... (8G)

Making an additional point

Moreover, ... (8G)

Furthermore, ... (8G)

What is more, ... (8G)

Making a complaint

There's a problem / something wrong with ... (9G)

It's broken. (9G)

It doesn't work. / It has stopped working. (9G)

Can I have my money back, please? (9G)

Can you exchange / repair it? (9G)

Can I see / speak to the manager, please? (9G)