

The Great Office Makeover

Negotiating and Reaching Consensus

PART 01 Warm-Up Activity

Look at the following office improvements. Which one is the most important to you? Why?

- A free espresso machine.
- "Casual Friday" every day.
- New ergonomic chairs.
- A "no-meeting" afternoon once a week.

PART 02 The Scenario

Your company has a small budget (\$5,000) for "Workplace Happiness." Your team must decide how to spend it. There are five proposals on the table, but you can only choose TWO.

The Proposals:

1. High-end Espresso Machine (\$2,500)
2. Ergonomic Office Chairs (\$4,000)
3. Monthly Team Pizza Lunch for a year (\$1,500)
4. New Indoor Plants and Decor (\$1,000)
5. Professional Development Books/Library (\$1,000)

THE TASK & GOAL

Work as a committee to select exactly two proposals and justify your choices to the management.

1. Share your initial opinions on each of the five proposals.
2. Discuss the pros and cons of each, using agreeing and disagreeing phrases to narrow the list.
3. Reach a final consensus on the two best options.
4. Prepare a short 1-minute summary explaining why these two were chosen.

ROLES & PERSPECTIVES

A: THE BUDGET CONTROLLER

You are worried about costs. You prefer low-cost options like "Casual Fridays" or "No-meeting afternoons." You disagree with expensive equipment unless it lasts a long time.

B: THE EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE

You want maximum comfort and perks. You really want the espresso machine and the ergonomic chairs. You are not convinced that "No-meeting afternoons" will actually happen.

REFERENCE Useful Language

AGREEING	DISAGREEING	AGREEING TO DISAGREE
I totally agree.	I'm not convinced, to be honest.	We might have to agree to disagree.
That's a good point.	I'm not with you on this one.	Shall we just drop it and move on?
I couldn't agree more.	I don't think so, either.	Let's look at the next point.

PLANNING & NOTES

Plan your dialogue here

PART 03 Reflection

1. Was it easy to reach a consensus? Why or why not?
2. Which phrase did you use most often to disagree politely?

The Great Office Makeover

Target language practice.



TIME

30 MINS

OBJECTIVE

To use functional language for agreeing and disagreeing to reach a group decision.

GRAMMAR FOCUS

AGREEING AND DISAGREEING

- I totally agree
- I'm not convinced, to be honest
- We might have to agree to disagree.

KEY VOCABULARY

PRIORITY

RENOVATION

BUDGET

PROPOSAL

CONSENSUS

Procedure

1. **Warmer (5 mins):** Ask students to rank the warm-up items individually. Briefly poll the class to see where they already agree or disagree.
2. **The Task (15 mins):** Divide students into pairs (or small groups). Assign roles. Monitor for the use of target language. Encourage them to use "agreeing to disagree" if they get stuck on one point for too long.
3. **Feedback (10 mins):** Have each pair announce their two choices. Conduct a "delayed correction" session focusing on the accuracy of the agreeing/disagreeing phrases heard during the task.