

# Agreeing

\*opposite **Disagreeing**

1. To agree with someone or something
2. To partly agree with someone or something
3. When a group of people agree

## **1. To agree with someone or something**

**agree** *verb* [intransitive and transitive] to have the same opinion as someone, or to think that a statement is correct:

- Many people **agreed with** his views about the war.
- I **completely agree with** Chomsky when he says that humans are born with a special ability to learn language.
- Most experts **agree that** dieting needs to be accompanied by regular exercise.

### **STUDY NOTE: Grammar**

Don't say 'agree someone's opinion' or 'agree to someone's opinion'. Say **agree with** someone's opinion.

**share somebody's view / concern / fear etc** to have the same opinion, concern, fear etc as someone else:

- I **share** her **concerns about** the lack of women in high academic positions.
- A lot of people **share** his **view that** tourism will have a negative impact on the island.
- This **fear** was **shared** by union leaders, who saw the new law as an attack on their rights.

**subscribe to a view / theory etc** to agree with an opinion or idea:

- There are a number of scientists who **subscribe to the view** that there is a God who controls the workings of the universe.
- Some people think that there are cases where torture is justified. I, for one, do not **subscribe** to this **theory**.

**be of the same opinion** if people **are of the same opinion**, they agree with each other:

- All three specialists were **of the same opinion about** the cause of her illness.
- Professor Dawkins **is of the same opinion as** Dr Jones.

**concur** *verb* [intransitive and transitive] a formal word meaning to agree:

- The committee **concurred with** this view.
- Most modern historians would **readily concur that** (=agree without any hesitation) this was an event of huge importance.
- As most biblical scholars **concur**, the letter could not have been written by any contemporary of Jesus.

**somebody is right / somebody makes a valid point** used when you agree with what someone says:

- Darwin was **right** when he argued that humans and higher mammals are closely related.
- Cox **makes a valid point** when he questions our ability to remain objective.

## ***2. To partly agree with someone or something***

**agree up to a point** to partly agree with someone or something:

- Although I **agree with** him **up to a point**, I find it hard to believe that this is true in every case.

**broadly agree** to agree with most parts of something:

- The conference delegates **broadly agreed** with the proposals.

**there is some truth in** used when saying that you think that something is partly true or right:

- **There is some truth in the argument that** there is a link between violence on our streets and violence on our TV screens.
- **There is some truth in** all of these theories, but none of them can fully explain the causes of unemployment.

## ***3. When a group of people agree***

**agreement** *noun* [uncountable] if there is **agreement** on something, people agree about it:

- Today **there is general agreement that** pollution from cars and planes is threatening the future of our planet.
- **There is widespread agreement on** the need for prison reform. (=most people agree about it)
- Geologists **are** mostly **in agreement about** how the islands were formed. (=most of them agree about it)

- The two sides were unable to **reach agreement**. (=they could not agree with each other)

**consensus** *noun* [singular, uncountable] agreement between most of the people in a group about something, especially with the result that they decide on a particular course of action:

- There is now a **general consensus among** scientists **on** the causes of global warming.
- There was a **growing consensus that** the military government had to be replaced.

**common ground** *noun* [singular, uncountable] things that people agree about, especially when there are other things that they disagree about:

- **There are many areas of common ground between** the two philosophers.
- Despite their differing backgrounds, they **found common ground** in their interest in science.

**unanimous** *adjective* if a group of people are **unanimous** on something, they all have the same opinion about it:

- Medical experts are **unanimous on** this issue.
- They were **unanimous in their opposition** to the plan.
- a **unanimous decision** by the three judges

**widely held view / belief etc** an opinion, belief etc that many people have:

- There is a **widely held view among** business experts that selling off a business to a management team is not in the best interests of the company's shareholders.
- There is a **widely held belief that** advanced western societies are becoming more and more criminalized.

**widely / generally accepted** if something is **widely** or **generally accepted**, it is thought to be true by most people:

- **It is now widely accepted that** the universe began with the so-called 'big bang'.
- **It is generally accepted that** electricity generated from nuclear power is more expensive than other forms of electricity.

## Disagreeing

\*opposite **Agreeing**

1. To disagree with someone or with an opinion
2. When people disagree about something
3. Causing disagreement

### **1. To disagree with someone or with an opinion**

**disagree / not agree** *verb* [intransitive]:

- Scholars continue to **disagree about** the meaning behind the poem.
- Although he **did not agree with** Plato, he was profoundly influenced by him.
- Scientists **disagree among themselves on** what causes the disease.
- I **strongly disagree with** his views on immigration. (=I disagree with them very much)

**take issue with** a formal phrase meaning to strongly disagree with what someone has said:

- I feel that I must **take issue with** the article's conclusion.
- Some people have **taken issue with** Conrad's description of the Congo in his novel 'The Heart of Darkness'.

**dispute** *verb* [transitive] to say that you think that something is not correct or not true:

- Researchers have **disputed** her **claims**.
- No one **disputes that** the problem exists.

**differ** *verb* [intransitive] if people **differ** about something, they have a range of different opinions about it. If **opinions, views, or tastes differ**, people have different opinions, views, or tastes:

- Critics **differed sharply on** the merits of his work. (=they had very different opinions)
- **Opinions differ** about the proper relationship between the mass media and society.

**be divided / split** *adjective* if a group of people is **divided** or **split** on something, some of them have one opinion and others have a completely different opinion:

- America's doctors remain **deeply divided on** the issue of whether it should be legal for a physician to help a terminally ill patient commit suicide.
- Scientists **were split on** the uses to which the discoveries of atomic physics were being put.

**be mistaken** *adjective* used to say that you disagree with someone or with an opinion that they have, and think that they are wrong:

- He **is mistaken** if he believes that the United States will not respond to this threat.
- Such a view **is**, however, **seriously mistaken**.

## **2. When people disagree about something**

**disagreement** *noun* [uncountable and countable] if there is **disagreement** about something, people do not agree about it:

- There is considerable **disagreement among** experts **about** the usefulness of these tests.
- She found herself **in disagreement with** her colleagues **on** the issue. (=she found that she disagreed with them about it)

**dispute** *noun* [uncountable and countable] a serious disagreement, in which two people, organizations, or countries publicly disagree and argue with each other:

- He became involved in a long legal **dispute with** his publisher.
- There is considerable **dispute over** the precise definition of this term.
- The United Nations is trying to settle the bitter and long-running **dispute between** the two countries.

**controversy** *noun* [uncountable and countable] serious disagreement, especially with people expressing strongly opposing views in newspapers, in books, on television etc:

- There has been a lot of **controversy over** abortion in the US.
- Alice Walker writes about the **controversy surrounding** the film version of her novel, 'The Color Purple'.
- There is some **controversy among** biologists **about** whether this is actually true.

## **3. Causing disagreement**

**contentious** *adjective* a formal word used to describe statements and situations that cause a lot of disagreement and argument:

- Water has been a **contentious issue** between Turkey and its neighbours for years.
- One particularly **contentious area** in the field of health and safety is the valuation of human life itself.

**controversial** *adjective* causing a lot of disagreement among people, with strongly opposing opinions being expressed in newspapers, in books, on television etc:

- The use of genetic tests is a **controversial issue**.
- The judge's decision was **highly controversial** at the time.

- Oliver Cromwell remains a somewhat **controversial** historical **figure**.

**divisive** *adjective* causing arguments between people and making them form into two opposing groups:

- The war was extremely **divisive**.
- Same-sex marriage remains a **divisive** issue in many parts of the US.