

B1 ENGLISH

CHAPTER 3 Practice 1

In this practice you will learn

B1 ENGLISH CHAPTER 3 Practice 1		Completed		Your Score
		Yes	No	
B1 Speaking	• Agreeing and disagreeing	☐	☐	/
<i>Read these magazines</i>	➤ <i>Black Friday and Buy Nothing Day</i>	☐	☐	/
	➤ <i>World Kindness Day</i>	☐	☐	/

Speaking: B1

Agreeing and disagreeing

In this video, Emir and Paul discuss a design for a client. Listen to the language they use for agreeing and disagreeing and practise saying the useful phrases.

Before watching

Do the preparation task first. Then watch the video and do the exercises.

Preparation task

Put the phrases (a–h) in the correct group (1–2).

Groups

1. Agreeing

.....

2. Disagreeing

.....

Phrases

- a. I think I disagree.
- b. I'm not so sure.
- c. Maybe you've got a point there.
- d. Don't get me wrong, but I don't think so.
- e. I agree.
- f. I'm not convinced.
- g. I think you're right.
- h. Yes, definitely.

Tasks

Task 1

Decide which sentence gives the best summary of the video.

- a. Emir and Paul discuss the design but can't agree on any changes.
- b. Emir and Paul disagree on the design, but they make some changes and finally agree.
- c. Emir and Paul both agree on the design and decide no changes are needed.

Task 2

Put the words in the correct order.

1. by not idea. I'm that convinced

2. so not I'm sure.

3. disagree. I think I
4. they fit. get me think that wrong, but I don't Don't
5. what a bit empty. you mean, I see but it looks
6. there. point a got OK, maybe you've
7. you're I right. think
8. we like So agree! looks it

Task 3

Complete the dialogue.

convinced	definitely	get me wrong	got a point
I disagree	not so sure	right	what you mean

A: Here's my design for the new advertising campaign. What do you think?

B: I'm not (1)..... that this is what the client wants.

A: But they asked for bright colours.

B: I think (2)..... . They said they wanted the design to be fresh and fun.

A: But this design *is* fresh and fun.

B: I'm (3)..... .

A: Really?

B: Don't (4)..... , I like your design but it doesn't fit the brief.

A: I see (5)..... . I guess it's a bit too flashy.

B: What about changing the red and the stars?

A: Maybe you've (6)..... there. I think you're (7)..... . Is that better?

B: Yes, (8)..... .

Discussion

When was the last time you disagreed with someone?

Transcript

Ana: Hi! I'm Ana. Welcome to *What to Say!*

Do you know what to say when you agree and disagree? Listen out for useful language for agreeing and disagreeing. Then, we'll practise saying the new phrases – after this.

Paul: So?

Emir: I'm not convinced by that idea.

Paul: Why?

Emir: Well, this design is just too simple.

Paul: It's not simple, it's minimal. Plus, it's what the client asked for.

Emir: I'm not so sure. Look ... Look at these designs here. I think this is the style that the client wants.

Paul: Hmmm ... I think I disagree. They said they wanted it clean and minimal.

Emir: These designs are clean and minimal.

Paul: Look, don't get me wrong, Emir. I like them, but I don't think they fit the brief. For example, here, there's just a bit too much going on.

Emir: OK, I see what you mean, but without all the colour, it would look a bit ... empty.

Paul: True. OK, how about taking that and that away? So it still looks interesting, but less busy.

Emir: OK ... maybe you've got a point there. Actually, that has given me an idea.

...

Emir: So we remove the blue. I think that creates a nice balance.

Paul: Yeah, yeah. I think you're right. Changing the circles helped too.

Emir: I agree. So we're happy with this now?

Paul: Yes, definitely.

Emir: So it looks like we can agree!

Paul: Occasionally.

Ana: Hello again! I'm pleased that Paul and Emir agreed with each other in the end. So, did you notice the useful phrases used for agreeing and disagreeing? Listen to me and then repeat.

I'm not convinced by that idea.

I'm not so sure.

I think I disagree.

Don't get me wrong, but I don't think they fit.

I see what you mean, but it looks a bit empty.

OK, maybe you've got a point there.

I think you're right.

Yes, definitely.

I agree.

Ana: Try and use some of these phrases the next time you agree and disagree in English. Bye for now!

Black Friday and Buy Nothing Day

Every year in November, people look for bargains on Black Friday. But did you know that the same day is also Buy Nothing Day?

Before reading

Do the preparation task first. Then read the article and do the exercises.

Preparation task

Put the words in the correct group.

a bargain	a consumer	a customer	a discount
a shopkeeper	a price cut	a retailer	a special offer

An item at a lower price	A person who buys something	A person or company that sells something
1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.
3.		
4.		

Black Friday and Buy Nothing Day

What is Black Friday?

Black Friday is the day after the American holiday of Thanksgiving, which is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November. Because it is a holiday in the United States, it has long been a popular day for consumers to start shopping for Christmas. Over the last 20 years big retailers have started to offer discounts and bargains on this day, and it has become more and more popular. Last year, people in the USA spent an estimated \$54.7 billion between Black Friday and Cyber Monday (the Monday after Thanksgiving, when people often buy more online). The idea of Black Friday has also spread around the world. For example, in 2017, people in the UK spent the equivalent of \$10.3 billion, in Germany \$7.6 billion and in France \$6.2 billion.

Is Black Friday out of control?

Many of us love to get a bargain, but some feel that events like Black Friday encourage people to buy things that they don't really need and can't afford. Many people seem to

completely lose control of both their spending and their tempers. It is easy to find video online of customers physically fighting each other over bargains. It is also argued that Black Friday is bad for small shopkeepers, who cannot afford to offer the kinds of price cuts that the big companies can.

What's the alternative to Black Friday?

Instead of taking the opportunity to buy as much as possible on Black Friday, you could do the opposite and buy absolutely nothing. Since 1997, Buy Nothing Day has been held on the same day as Black Friday. The rules are simple. Just don't buy anything at all for 24 hours. Many people are surprised how difficult this actually is. The aim is to make people think more about their spending and to make better decisions about what they buy and where they buy it from.

Ethical spending

As well as spending less and not buying unnecessary items, Buy Nothing Day aims to raise awareness of how to be a more ethical consumer. For example, you can avoid buying 'fast fashion', that is, very cheap clothes that are worn a few times before being thrown away. Or you could decide not to automatically upgrade your mobile at the end of a contract. These kinds of decisions can help to protect the environment as well as saving you money.

What else can you do on Buy Nothing Day?

Some people carry out protests at shopping centres. Others avoid the shops completely and go for a walk in nature instead. Another alternative, the Buy Nothing Coat Exchange, is an idea which is spreading. People donate winter coats throughout November and anyone who needs one can come and take one on Buy Nothing Day.

Tasks

Task 1

Choose the best answer.

1. Black Friday first became popular as a shopping day because
 - a. there have always been special offers on that day.
 - b. many people in the United States don't work or go to school on this day.
 - c. it is the day before Thanksgiving, an important holiday.
2. Why do some people think Black Friday is out of control?
 - a. Small shopkeepers offer discounts too.
 - b. Some people physically fight with the retailers.
 - c. People spend more than they can really afford.
3. To celebrate Buy Nothing Day, the rules are that you
 - a. don't buy anything at all.
 - b. only buy from small shopkeepers.
 - c. think carefully about what you are buying.
4. According to the text, what should an ethical consumer probably not buy?
 - a. cheap clothes
 - b. a mobile phone
 - c. a winter coat

Task 2

Are the sentences true or false?

	Answer	
1. Last year, people in the UK spent more on Black Friday than in some other countries in Europe.	True	False
2. Some small shopkeepers find Black Friday is bad for their business.	True	False
3. Buy Nothing Day is celebrated the day before Black Friday.	True	False
4. The only reason to keep your old mobile at the end of a contract is to save money.	True	False
5. To celebrate Buy Nothing Day, you shouldn't go near a shopping centre.	True	False
6. The Buy Nothing Coat Exchange is not only for people who are homeless.	True	False

Discussion

What will you do on Black Friday and Buy Nothing Day this year? Do you agree that people buy things they don't need and can't afford?

World Kindness Day

World Kindness Day is celebrated on 13 November. How can we become happier by doing kind things for others? And how can we help the world by doing kind things for ourselves?

Before reading

Do the preparation task first. Then read the article and do the exercises.

Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–h) with the vocabulary (1–8).

Vocabulary

Definition

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 1. kindness | a. practical knowledge which almost everybody has |
| 2. the soul | b. to give something to somebody |
| 3. well-being | c. the part of a person that is not physical and that experiences emotions |
| 4. contagious | d. kind behaviour (treating people in a helpful, friendly way) |
| 5. common sense | e. a sense of health and happiness |
| 6. to complain | f. a small movement that is a consequence of an earlier action |
| 7. to hand | g. to talk in a negative way about something which makes you feel angry or unhappy |
| 8. a ripple | h. able to pass quickly from one person to another, like a virus |

World Kindness Day

Can you remember a time when somebody was kind to you? Perhaps a person allowed you to go in front of them in a queue. Maybe your sister phoned you to ask how your week was going. Or perhaps a stranger or a friend helped you in a much deeper way. There are a million ways to offer kindness. And at a time when the world seems to have so many problems, some people have started to take the issue of kindness very seriously indeed!

Why be kind?

Few people would disagree with the idea that a kind action is good for the soul. It is a win-win situation, leading to a sense of well-being both for the receiver of this kind gesture, as well as for the person who does the action. As a simple example, let's imagine you have a workmate who always does a very good job. How about taking a moment to mention this to them, just in conversation or perhaps by email? The effects of this will probably be quite clear: your workmate will be happy to receive some praise and, in addition, you will probably feel good about yourself for having spread a little joy.

What are 'random acts of kindness'?

Many organisations try to encourage people to do kind acts, wherever and whenever they can. The idea behind this is that it doesn't take any major plan to be kind, just a little bit of effort. Perhaps the strongest supporters of this idea are the Random Acts of Kindness (RAK) Foundation, who work with schools and companies to teach people kindness skills. They operate under the beliefs that kindness can be taught and that it is contagious. Their activities range from suggesting kind acts to allowing their website-users to become 'RAKtivists' (people who officially register themselves as activists of kindness).

How can I be kind?

Apart from using your own common sense, the RAK website suggests some more imaginative ways to show kindness. Generally, these fall into three categories. The first is interpersonal kindness. Some examples are donating old clothes to charity or writing a positive online comment about a restaurant that you like. The second is environmental kindness, which could mean simply recycling or organising a group event to clean a local park or beach. The third category is less obvious: personal kindness, which means treating yourself kindly. Some examples are taking a walk in nature or setting yourself an objective to complain less. The logic is that by being kind to yourself, you will automatically be kinder to the world around you.

What is World Kindness Day?

This is an annual celebration which takes place on 13 November each year. The day is marked in many countries, drawing attention to the amazing work of organisations and individuals in local communities. How do people celebrate this day? Well, by being kind ... and having lots of fun. One typical event is to use 'kindness cards'. These are small cards which you hand to somebody when you do a kind act for them – with the message that now it is the other person's turn to 'pass on' the card by doing a kind act for another person.

Most experts on kindness agree that it has a sort of ripple effect. This means that one kind action tends to lead to more and more. So don't wait for kindness to find you today, go and start a new ripple!

Sources:

<http://www.randomactsofkindness.org/>

Tasks

Task 1

Are the sentences true or false?

	Answer	
1. The text suggests that the world is not generally a kind place.	True	False
2. The text suggests that kindness is better for the giver than for the receiver.	True	False
3. Random acts of kindness can be spontaneous.	True	False
4. In the third paragraph, the word 'contagious' has a positive idea.	True	False
5. The RAK website suggests that people should think less about themselves.	True	False
6. World Kindness Day is not celebrated in every country in the world.	True	False
7. A 'kindness card' is a little card which you give to a person who has been kind to you.	True	False
8. The conclusion of the text is that the next time a person treats you kindly, you must do something kind for a different person.	True	False

Task 2

Complete the sentences with the prepositions in the box.

for	from	from	into	on	under
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1. Few people would disagree with the idea that a kind action is good the soul.
2. They operate the beliefs that kindness can be taught and that it is contagious.
3. Their activities range suggesting kind acts to allowing their website users to become 'RAKtivists'.
4. Apart using your own common sense, the RAK website suggests some more imaginative ways to show kindness.
5. Generally, these fall three categories.
6. Most experts kindness agree that it has a sort of ripple effect.

Discussion

Can you suggest other ideas for how we can be kind? Do you agree that it is important to treat yourself kindly?