ACADEMIC SKILLS

Worksheet

💬 **Express agreement and disagreement (1)**

C21 ENGLISH FOR THE 21st CENTURY

Levels 1 and 2

Student name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

You learn the communication skill of 'Contributing to a discussion' in *C21 English for the 21st Century*, Level 1. Contributing to a discussion is also essential in academic settings, where discussions about academic topics take place in seminars and tutorials. In a discussion, we try to link our ideas to what other people have said. One way of doing this is by agreeing or disagreeing.

Practice

1 **Read the discussion below and answer the questions, a–d.**

Tutor	Some people argue that computer technology is replacing human workers and leading to increasing unemployment. What do you think?
Alice	I agree. I think it's a serious problem. Unemployment is really increasing in some areas.
Ben	Yes, I think so, too. Companies can make more money by using technology, but ordinary people are losing their jobs.
Chloe	I'm not sure that's completely true. Technology creates new jobs as well, doesn't it? I think workers just need to be ready to try new kinds of work.
David	I agree with Chloe. Think about jobs like web design and social media marketing. They didn't exist a few years ago.
Ben	That's a good point, but I don't think it's that simple. I don't agree that workers can always just switch to new jobs. You need the right skills and training. So, for example, if you lose your job in a warehouse, you can't just become a web designer!

a Which students agree/disagree with the tutor's statement?

	agree	disagree
Alice	☐	☐
Ben	☐	☐
Chloe	☐	☐
David	☐	☐

b Underline words and phrases the students use to agree.

c Circle words and phrases the students use to disagree.

d Which phrase shows that the speaker partly agrees?

2 **Match the sentence parts.**

1 I agree/disagree with …	**a** Alice.
2 I agree/disagree (that) …	**b** it's a serious problem.
	c Ben's point.
	d technology benefits businesses more.

3 👥 **Choose one of the topic areas below. In groups, discuss whether you agree or disagree with the statements.**

Remember to:
* use appropriate phrases to express agreement/disagreement
* give reasons why you agree/disagree
* link to what others have said, e.g. *I agree with Maria*

Keep a note of everyone's opinions using the chart below. Write a name at the top of each column.

Put a tick (✔) if they agree with the statement or a cross (✗) if they disagree.

a					
b					
c					

Science & technology

a It's difficult for people to remember different security passwords for every app and website they use. Businesses need to find better ways of keeping our personal data safe.

b Electric cars are not the answer to problems with traffic and pollution. We need to completely change our lifestyles so that people work closer to where they live and travel much less.

c Sending people into space is incredibly expensive and brings no practical benefits to the majority of people. It's a waste of money and resources.

Society & culture

a Did you know that global average life expectancy increased by 5.5 years between 2000 and 2016? That's the fastest increase since the 1960s. As people are living much longer, it makes sense to increase the retirement age to 75 or even 80.

b Compulsory cookery classes for all children in school would encourage healthier lifestyles in later life.

c On social media, we only follow people we like, people we agree with. That means we don't hear the views of people with different opinions from our own.

4 👥 **In your groups, prepare a short summary of your discussion. Use the chart to help you.**

You should mention:
* which topic you chose
* how many people agreed and disagreed with each statement
* some of the most interesting reasons people gave

Present your findings to the class.

Reflect

5 **Think about how successful your group's discussion was.**

As a group, did you:

- all participate equally in the discussion?
- organize the discussion so it flowed well?

Did you:

- speak as much as / more than / less than other people?
- use appropriate language to agree/disagree?
- express your ideas clearly?
- give reasons for your responses?
- link to what other people had said?