

**The Art of Polite Disagreement**

Welcome back to *Dee’s English Studio*, the station that helps you improve your professional English skills in and out of the workplace. I’m your host, Dee, and I’m joined by my co-host Minako.

Today we’re tackling a topic that everyone faces at some point in their career: handling disagreements and difficult conversations in business.

今日のテーマは、意見の不一致がある時。
人間関係にヒビを与えずに、プロフェッショナルに対処する会話例をご紹介します。

Disagreements are inevitable, but how we navigate them can make or break our relationships at work. Whether it’s with a colleague, a client, or even a boss, learning how to handle these situations with professionalism and tact is crucial.

Today, we’ll begin exploring a three-part series of phrases, strategies, and techniques that will help you disagree politely, give constructive feedback, and manage tough conversations like a pro.

**Segment 1:**

**The Art of Polite Disagreement**

Let’s start by talking about ***polite disagreement***. When you disagree with someone at work, it’s important to express your opinion without sounding confrontational. “*A good rule of thumb”\** is to acknowledge the other person’s point of view before sharing your own.

Here are a few phrases you can use to disagree politely:

相手を尊重しながら、自分の反対意見を述べるときに便利なフレーズを３つ紹介します。

* *“I see your point, but I’m not sure I agree”*「おっしゃることは分かりますが、同意できるか分かりません。」
* *“I understand where you’re coming from, but I have a slightly different perspective.”*「あなたのお考えは理解できますが、私は少し違う視点を持っています。」
* *“That’s an interesting approach, but in my experience, I’ve found that…”*「それは面白いアプローチですね。ただ、私の経験では…」

These phrases allow you to share your thoughts without making the other person feel attacked. The key is to stay respectful and professional, even if you strongly disagree with their point of view."

Here’s what a conversation may sound like using all three sample phrases:

**Context**:

Two colleagues, Duane and Minako, are discussing the best approach to a marketing campaign for a new product launch. Duane prefers a digital-only strategy, while Minako believes a more traditional, multi-channel approach would be better.

Duane:

I really think we should go with an entirely digital campaign for this product launch. Social media and online ads have been giving us great results lately, and it’ll be more cost-effective than adding print and radio to the mix.

Minako:

"*I see your point, but I’m not sure I agree.* While digital campaigns have worked well, this product is targeted at an older demographic that might not engage as much with social media. I think we should at least consider including some traditional channels.”

Duane:

"*I understand where you’re coming from, but I have a slightly different perspective.* Even with an older audience, I believe we could reach them through targeted online ads on platforms they use, like Facebook and YouTube. Those ads tend to be more cost-effective than print.”

Minako:

"*That’s an interesting approach, but in my experience, I’ve found that* combining digital and traditional methods gives the best reach. We could focus on digital for the younger segment, but we shouldn’t ignore older consumers who still rely on print and radio."

Duane:

“Hmm, you make a good point. Maybe we could test a small portion of the budget on traditional media and see how it performs.”

This conversation shows how both colleagues respectfully present their ideas and manage their disagreement using polite language, which helps maintain a productive discussion.

And that wraps up today’s episode on handling disagreements in the workplace. Remember, polite and professional communication is key to navigating tough conversations. By acknowledging others’ perspectives and respectfully sharing your own, you can keep discussions productive.

丁寧でプロフェッショナルな姿勢がアメリカのビジネスでも大切です。
相手の意見を認めた上で、自分の意見を共有するようにすると、建設的なディスカッションを進めることができます。

Next time, we’ll explore how to give constructive feedback, so don’t miss it! Thanks for tuning in to Dee’s English Studio. Keep practicing, stay confident, and we’ll see you in the next one!