

English Phrase	What it actually means	How non-English speakers could understand it
Could do...	This option is acceptable only as a last resort.	Go for it!
Not bad.	Good work.	Not very good.
Hmm, that's a very brave schedule.	There's no way you can finish that on time.	You are a brave and courageous employee, well done!
I'll bear that in mind.	I have no intention of utilising your suggestion.	We may very well use your idea.
By the way, just have a quick point to make about...	This comment is of the utmost importance and related to your grievous error.	A throwaway comment, disregard.
Well, that's certainly an 'interesting' suggestion.	Your idea makes no sense and is foolish.	Your idea interests me greatly.
Can I make a suggestion?	Listen to me, it's the only way this will work.	Would you like some casual input?
With all due respect...	Your idea is awful.	I respect you and your ideas.
Perhaps we could explore other ideas?	Your proposal simply will not work.	Let's brainstorm and build on your great idea.
You should join us for dinner sometime.	I begrudgingly invite you to my home.	My home is your home!
Yes, yes, I heard what you said.	Your views are irrelevant in this instance.	I have taken on board your valuable input.

Invitations	I'd like to invite you to . . . If you have time, I'd like to invite you . . . Would you like to join us for (event) at (time)? We'd be glad to have you accompany us . . . We'd be delighted/honored to have you as our guest at . . .		
Requesting	Could I ask you to . . . ? Would you mind if I asked you to . . . ? Would you be so kind as to . . . ?		
Apologizing	We regret to inform you that . . . Regretfully, . . . Unfortunately, . . .		
Asking For Help	Could you . . . (for me)? Would you please . . . ? Would you mind V+ing . . . ? Could you possibly . . . ? Could you do me a favor? Could I ask you a favor? Can I ask you to . . . ? I need some help (if you have time). (If you're not busy) I could use your help.		
Useful Expressions	It is to be noted	We have no doubt of (that)	As you may know
	to take the liberty of	to draw your attention to	to take into consideration
	To take into account	the matter of great importance	at the present time
	in case of necessity	without fail	as soon as possible
	at your convenience	mentioned above	in general
	for instance	in no case	despite the fact that
	as a result of	in accordance with	in view of the above said
	on the ground that	to a great extent	to a certain extent /degree

Useful phrases for your oral test

Giving Opinion

1. I reckon...
2. I'd say...
3. Personally, I think...
4. What I reckon is...
5. If you ask me...
6. The way I see it...
7. As far as I'm concerned...
8. If you don't mind me saying...
9. I'm utterly convinced that...
10. In my humble opinion...

Apologising

1. Sorry.
2. I'm (so / very / terribly) sorry.
3. Ever so sorry.
4. How stupid / careless / thoughtless of me.
5. Pardon (me)
6. That's my fault.
7. Sorry. It was all my fault.
8. Please excuse my (ignorance)
9. Please don't be mad at me.
10. Please accept our (sincerest) apologies.

Disagreeing with people

1. I'm not sure about that!
2. You could be right, but...
3. (I'm afraid) I don't agree.
4. I agree up to a point, but..
5. That's an interesting idea, but..
6. Do you really think..?
7. Rubbish! / Nonsense!
8. You can't be serious!
9. Actually, as a matter of fact. I think..
10. That's not how I see it.

Refusing ideas

1. No way
2. Absolutely not
3. No Chance
4. Not if you paid me
5. Get lost