

Advanced arguing: thinking on your feet

COMMUNICATION

LEVEL
Advanced

NUMBER
C1_3052X_EN

LANGUAGE
English



lingoda

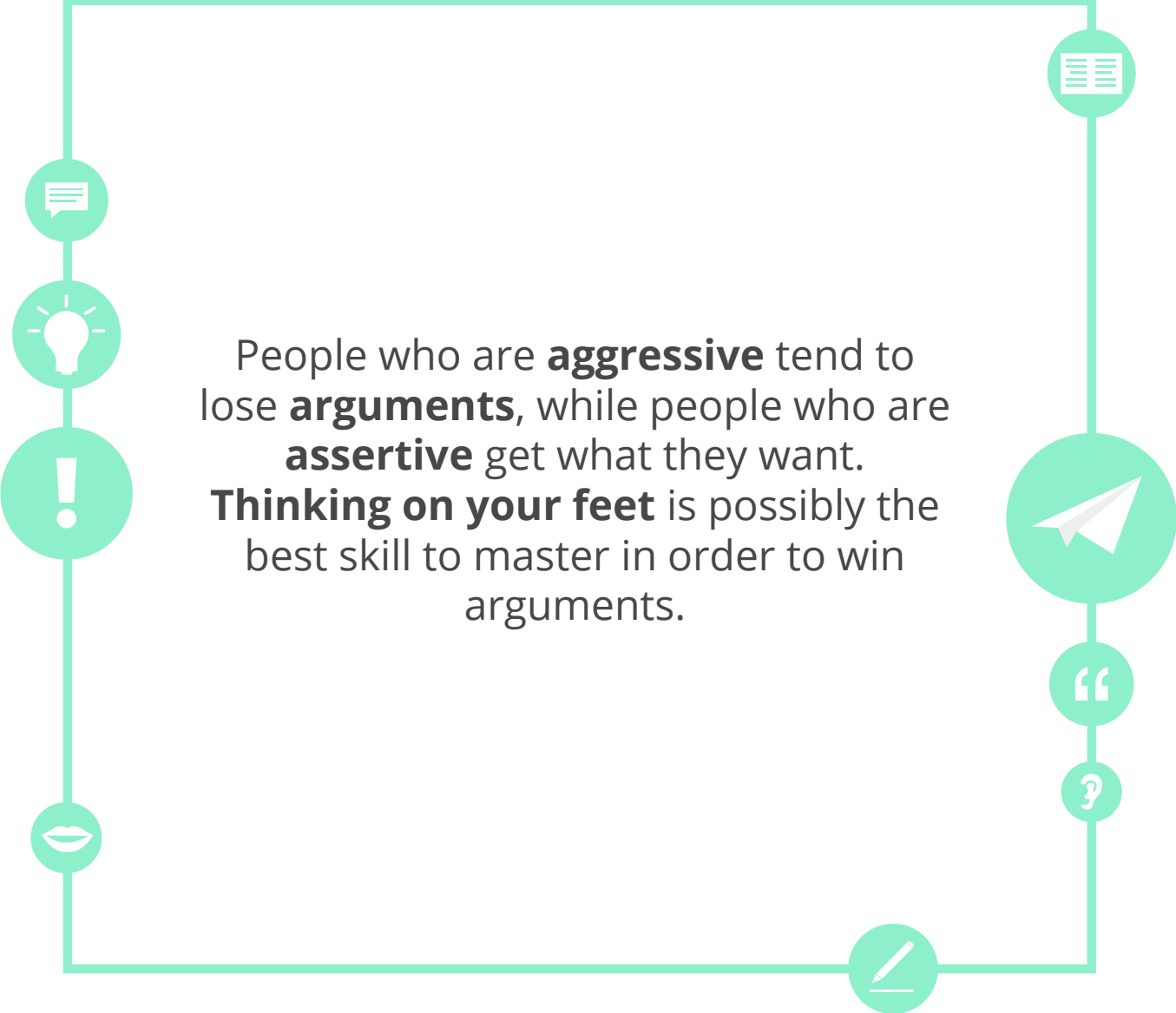




Goals

- Can understand and explain some more advanced strategies for disagreeing in an informal context.
- Can make an argument and support it, especially on my feet and in the moment.





People who are **aggressive** tend to lose **arguments**, while people who are **assertive** get what they want. **Thinking on your feet** is possibly the best skill to master in order to win arguments.



Discussions and arguments

**What's the
difference between a
discussion and an
argument?**



How do you argue?

Which animal do you identify with more when in an argument? Do you know anyone who is the opposite to you?





Arguments

How do people often feel during a spoken argument? What are some of the features of such an argument?



raised voices

high emotions



Review: phrases for arguments, suggestions and reluctance

Surely you can't think that!

Why don't we..?

Don't you see that..?

How about we..?



I'm not inclined to agree.

I don't see it that way.

I have to disagree.

I'm afraid we don't see eye to eye on that.



New vocabulary

assertive

She was very **assertive**, and clearly told us what she wants us to change and why.

aggressive

He was screaming and shouting at me – he's always so **aggressive**.

He was calm and didn't show any anger, but he made some really **aggressive** arguments, which made me think twice.

to diffuse a situation

I always try to remain calm and **diffuse the situation** by responding respectfully.

to escalate a situation

He started shouting back at me, which only **escalated the situation**.



Listening skills

It should go without saying that in order to win an argument you need to know what you are arguing against. **Listening carefully** to your opponent is essential.

advice	why
Pay attention to tone of voice	It shows more emotion or anger than words can
Look at facial expressions, gestures, and body language	As above, though the words may be civil, body language can tell you otherwise
Don't interrupt	It's always rude... obviously
Keep your concentration to the end	Don't start thinking about how you're going to reply too soon
Keep eye contact with the person speaking	This way they are reassured you are listening



Paraphrasing

Part of listening is **paraphrasing** or repeating back what the person you are arguing with said. In this way you can both **buy yourself some time to think**, and **check that you have understood** properly.

phrases

As far as I understand it, you mean that...

If I heard you correctly, you are implying that...

When you said..., did you mean...

So what you're saying is...





Dealing with emotions and anger

- It is natural in an argument that we feel **angry** and **emotional**, especially if the person we are arguing with feels the same.
- It is important to try to **keep calm** during an argument, as otherwise you will be unable to listen and **respond clearly** and **respectfully** to anyone.

- Take a **deep breath**; this will help stop you from losing your temper.
- **Detach emotionally** from the arguments. Don't see it as an attack on you personally, but rather an attack on an action.
- **Categorise** the other person's arguments to make sure you can **respond logically**.



Organising your arguments

Once you have taken a deep breath to calm down and started to categorise your opponent's arguments, you can **organise your counter-arguments**. It is a good idea to respond to each point the person brings up in turn. Here are some **phrases** you can use for organisation.



Firstly, secondly, finally...
To start with, next...



The reason is...
That's why...
I have a good reason for saying/doing that...



Answer these questions with your teacher

Do you have any other tips for keeping calm?

What facial expressions tell you someone is angry?

What can tone of voice tell you in an argument?

What body language and gestures should you be wary of in an argument?



Idioms and phrases for arguing

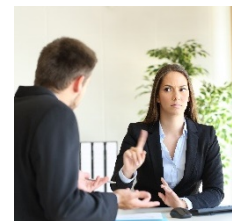
to stand up for oneself

You need to **stand up for yourself** and argue your point of view.



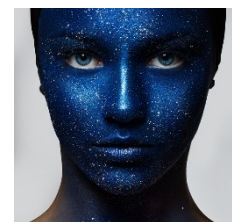
to walk all over someone

Don't let your boss **walk all over you** like usual, say no to him for once.



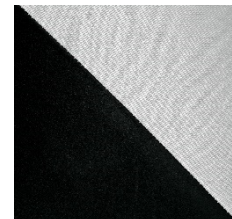
to argue until blue in the face

We can stand here and **argue till we're blue in the face**, but we're never going to agree on this.



to paint sth black and white

Don't **paint things black and white** – try to compromise.





Idioms and phrases for arguing

to demand an apology

You're in the wrong and I **demand an apology**.



to agree to disagree

No one's going to win this, we're going to have **to agree to disagree**.



to stand your ground

He needs to apologise, not you. **Stand your ground!**



I don't think that's fair to say

I don't think it's fair to say I always behave like that.





Answer the questions

Answer these questions which contain idioms from the previous slides.

1. Have you ever argued until you were blue in the face?
2. Are you the kind of person who stands up for themselves or do you let people walk all over you?
3. When was the last time you demanded an apology from someone?
4. In what ways can someone escalate an argument?
5. Do you tend to paint things black and white or do you see the nuances in a situation?





Get ready to listen



The next few slides will focus on training your listening comprehension



Before you listen, read through the scenario below

You are 25 years old and you live with three flatmates. You like spending time with your friends, especially at the weekends, because you work hard during the week. Your friend recently moved into a new house and he wanted someone to look after it for three nights, Thursday – Sunday, while he was away. He made you promise that you wouldn't have a party there, though he did say you could invite some friends over.

On Saturday night you had a party which got a bit out of control. You then woke up too late to tidy up and your friend arrived home to find his house a mess. You've never betrayed your friend's trust before.



Now turn to the listening activity on the following slide and complete it as your teacher reads.



Making notes

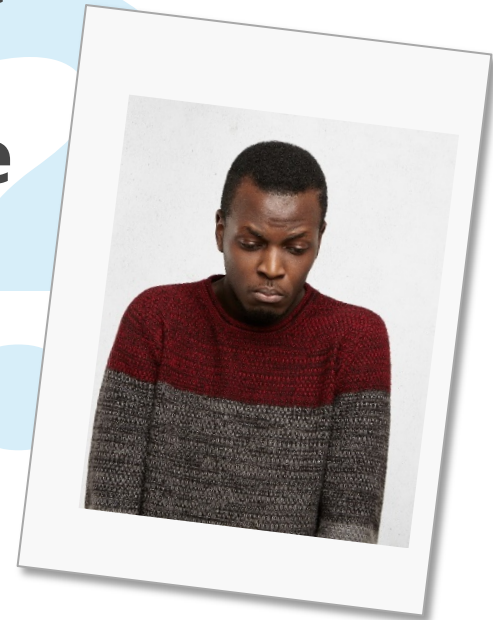
While you're listening, note down complaints and arguments made by your friend.





Your argument

Now make a counter-argument to your friend, explaining your side of the story. How can you best resolve this while also standing up for yourself?





Feelings

How do you think your friend felt in this situation? Could you tell from your teacher's tone of voice? How did you feel in your character?



guilty

hurt

angry



Get ready to listen



Get ready for the next listening exercise!



Before you listen, read through the scenario below

You live in a nice house in the suburbs with your partner and three children. You have a full-time job and you always seem to be busy – at the weekends you just like to relax with your family and spend some quality time with them. Your retired next door neighbour has come to complain about your lack of upkeep in the garden.



Now turn to the listening activity on the following slide and complete it as your teacher reads.



Making notes

While you're listening, note down complaints and arguments made by your neighbour.

A vertical sheet of lined paper with a spiral binding on the left side, intended for taking notes.

mow lawn





Your argument

Now, respond to your neighbour's complaints.





Vocabulary

Do you recognise this vocabulary from the listening?

mow your front
lawn

two doors down

give something a
going over

flower beds



Get ready to listen



The next few slides will focus on training your listening comprehension



Before you listen, read through the scenario below



You've been married for three years and you've always remembered your anniversary before. However, you've been very busy at work this year and you've forgotten. You personally don't care much for anniversaries but you know your partner does, so you normally make an effort.



Making notes

While you're listening, note down complaints and arguments made by your partner.

A blank sheet of lined paper with a spiral binding on the left side, intended for taking notes.





Read through the dialogue

Before you respond to your partner, read through this conversation your partner had with a friend.



Well of course you had a bone to pick with him, you had every right to be angry.

I know we'll bury the hatchet eventually, but I just can't forgive him for now.



Do you think he'll make a peace offering?

He'd better do!





Your argument

Respond to your partner's arguments.





Answer the questions

Answer the questions based on the three arguments you just had.



1

How was the tone different in each argument?

2

Did you respond differently if you knew you were completely in the wrong?

3

Would you manage to keep calm in these situations in real life?



Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!





Transcription

What do you mean you forgot? How can you forget something as important as our wedding anniversary? Does it mean nothing to you? Do I mean nothing to you? Because that's how you've made me feel: as though work and your social life is more important to you than me. And we've only been married three years – how are you going to feel after ten or even twenty? Are you just going to forget I exist completely? I'm really upset about this, you know how important it is to me, and still you couldn't be bothered to even buy me a card.

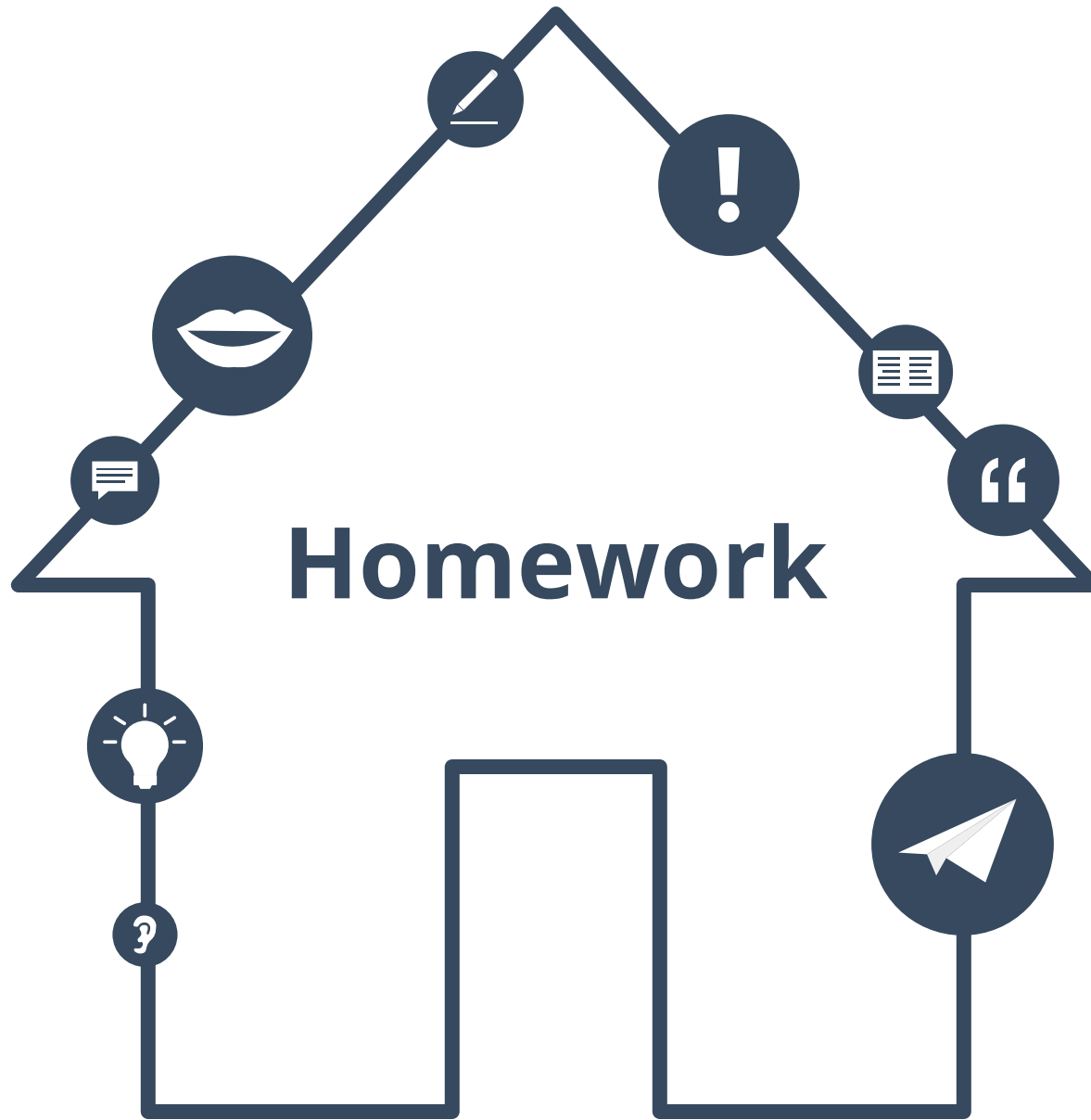
Exercise p. 29

I'm sorry to have to point this out, but it seems to have been rather a long time since you mowed your front lawn. I know it's your land and it's your business, but it's making a nice street look very untidy and it's becoming a bit of a bone of contention among the residents. Alice and Mike two doors down are trying to sell their house at the moment and I don't think you're making it easier for them. It would be better all round if you could give the grass a going over with the mower once a week – it doesn't take long. And while you're at it, you could tidy up those flower beds – poor flowers have been dead for at least a couple of months. Your bushes are also quite overgrown – they are growing over the wall into *my* garden. I have had to cut them back myself once already – to be honest, that isn't fair!

Exercise p. 24

What on earth happened here? Is this some kind of joke? Get out of bed right now. I can't believe this – my new carpet is ruined, there's broken glass in the kitchen, and it looks like every plate in my house is dirty. I only bought new things last week! Do you think you can just walk all over me? I knew I shouldn't have trusted you to take care of this place, you're so irresponsible. I'm furious with you – I demand an apology.

Exercise p. 19





Read through this premise for an argument

You live in a terraced house and your neighbour has a cat. The cat scratches at your window every night, waking you up. Your neighbour is an elderly man. He lost his wife recently so you haven't wanted to upset him. However, your sleep is now being seriously disturbed.





Writing an argument

Write what you would say to your neighbour here. Try to use as many of the idioms in this lesson as you can.

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