



Today's cue card:

Describe an interesting discussion you had as part of your work or studies

You should say:

-) What the subject of the discussion was
-) Who you discussed the subject with
-) What opinions were expressed
-) And explain why you found the discussion interesting

First off, I gotta say that I'm not too **hot on** discussions with any average **joe**, I mean if the one you're talking to is too much **self-serving** that can't **stomach** opposing ideas, then your whole **effort** to persuade them is literally **wasted**. Next is, u gotta make sure your **interlocutor** is intellectually **on par** with you so your words don't sound **gibberish** to them. Anyhow, I guess it was around a year ago that I and a partner of mine were getting our language institution ready and were sort of **on the home stretch**. U know a big step in any **start-up** is to advertise well and as I recall it was on a **scorching** dog day that we got ourselves into this heated discussion. He said we should put up **fliers** everywhere all over the city and let the **potential** students know about our **whereabouts**. As a matter of fact, this dude was old school and I had to remind him of both the **cost-effectiveness** and the spread of internet-based advertising. God, he was so **obsessed with** this flyer thing that for a second I thought I was gonna **cave**. Well He actually **made sense to some extent**, he would argue that his way was kinda more concentrated and he was right, but no matter how hard I tried, I couldn't show him **the big picture** that at the end of the day internet ads could actually do much better than fliers. What was so interesting about this discussion was that I knew I was absolutely right, but I couldn't **put the point forward**.

Language focus

First off

Before doing anything else:

First off I'd like you all to fill in an evaluation sheet.

used before saying the first of several things you want to say, especially when you are annoyed:

First off I didn't agree with the comments in your email.

be hot on something

- a. to know a lot about something:

He's pretty hot on aircraft.

- b. to be very strict about something SYN tight:

The company is very hot on security.



Joe

the ordinary average person

self-serving

showing that you will only do something if it will gain you an advantage – used to show disapproval:

self-serving politicians

to stomach sth

to be able to accept something, especially something unpleasant

SYN endure

A 26% water rate increase is more than most residents can stomach.

hard/difficult to stomach

Rob found Cathy's attitude hard to stomach.

Wasted effort

wasted journey/trip/effort etc

a journey etc that does not achieve anything: I'm sorry you've had a wasted trip. Mr Newton isn't here.

Interlocutor

your interlocutor is the person you are speaking to

be on a par (with something)

EQUAL to be at the same level or standard:

The wages of clerks were on a par with those of manual workers.

Gibberish

something you write or say that has no meaning, or is very difficult to understand **SYN nonsense**:

You're talking gibberish!

On the home stretch

the last part of an activity

Start-up

a new small company or business, especially one whose work involves computers or the Internet:

an Internet start-up

Scorching



extremely hot:

the scorching desert heat

scorching hot day

Dog day

the hottest days of the year

Flier or flyer

a small sheet of paper advertising something:

People were giving out flyers advertising the event.

Potential

likely to develop into a particular type of person or thing in the future

SYN possible

potential customer/buyer/client

new ways of attracting potential customers

Whereabouts

the place or area where someone or something is:

He showed great reluctance to reveal his whereabouts.

Cost-effective

bringing the best possible profits or advantages for the lowest possible costs

Be obsessed with sth

to think about something or someone much more than is necessary or sensible:

Stop obsessing about your hair. It's fine.

Cave

to finally stop opposing something, especially because someone has persuaded or threatened

cave in to

The chairman is expected to cave in to pressure from shareholders.

Make sense

to be a sensible thing to do

To some extent



to a certain *extent*/to *some extent*/to *an extent* (=partly)

We all to some extent remember the good times and forget the bad.

the big picture

We were so caught up with the details, we lost sight of the big picture (=the situation considered as a whole).

do better

do well/badly

used to ask or talk about how successful someone is at something

put sth forward

- a. to suggest a plan, proposal, idea etc for other people to consider or discuss SYN propose:

They put forward a number of

- b. to suggest formally that you or someone else should be considered for a particular job, membership of an organization etc:

Her name was put forward for the lead role in the play.

- c. to arrange for an event to start at an earlier time or date

put somebody/something ↔ forward

The men's final has been put forward to 1:30