

## Agreeing and disagreeing

- 1 **Think back** Make a list of all the school subjects you can remember. Which ones will you have an exam for at the end of this year?

### Speaking strategy

When we stress something in writing, we use an exclamation point (!). In speech we usually stress the key word(s). For example: *Study, study, study ... and then exams! It's really unfair that a few exams can decide our whole future!*



- 2 **Watch, listen, or read** Zac and Isela are starting 11<sup>th</sup> grade. What topic are they talking about?

Zac I'm really not enjoying this year. Study, study, study ... and then exams!

Isela You're right. But it might not be like that all year. I think we'll still have time to have fun.

Zac I'm not sure that's true. I really need to get good grades.

Isela Me too. It'll probably get a bit stressful this summer ...

Zac I agree. It's really unfair that a few exams can decide our whole future!

Isela I'm afraid I don't agree with you. I think exams are a good system.

Zac Because you always do really well in them! Why can't the teachers give us marks based on our work through the year?

Isela Well, I suppose some people might copy their work from the Internet—or they might get a lot of help from their parents.

Zac That's a good point, but it doesn't help me much!

Isela You just need to get organized. I'll help you. You'll be fine.

Zac Thanks. You might be right. We'll know by the end of the year.

Isela That's true. Come on—time for Geography!

Zac My favorite ...

- 3 **Pairwork** Read the Speaking strategy. Practice the dialogue in exercise 2.

- 4 **Real English** Complete the phrases from the dialogue. Then listen, check, and repeat.

### Agreeing

You're .

I . It's (really unfair).

true.

### Neutral

That's a good , but ...

You  be right.

### Disagreeing

I'm not  that's true.

I'm afraid I  agree with you.





**5** Choose an agreeing 😊, neutral 😐, or disagreeing ☹️ reaction to the statements.

- 1 "Copying work from the Internet is wrong."
- 2 "If you want to make progress, you need to study every night."
- 3 "Science is an interesting subject."
- 4 "Teenagers get too much homework."
- 5 "Girls do better in exams than boys."

**Link to life** In what situations is copying fine?  
When would you consider it stealing?

**6 Pairwork** Practice a similar dialogue with a partner. Discuss these statements and see if you agree. Give reasons for your opinions.

- 1 Schools won't exist in the future.
- 2 Exams are a good way of testing a student's ability.
- 3 Subjects such as Art are a waste of time.
- 4 Schools need to spend more time on subjects such as Coding.
- 5 Being happy is more important than earning money.

I agree with number 1. I think that in the future everyone will have classes online.

You might be right, but I think people will still want to learn together in groups.



**Beat the clock**

In pairs, in three minutes think of five to ten other topics like those in exercise 6. Add them to the barometer.

People under 16 shouldn't be allowed social media accounts.

People aged 16 should be able to vote.

strongly agree

agree

neutral

disagree

strongly disagree



**Link it**

**Pairwork** Write 3 or 4 statements for the topics in the *Beat the clock* activity. Your partner must respond by disagreeing or agreeing. Remember to use phrases from *Real English*. Take turns to read your statements.

Social media is a common way of communicating and people of any age should be able to use it.

People aged 16 should have the vote because government decisions have a major effect on them.

