

# 7.4 Speaking and writing

GOALS ■ Agree and disagree ■ Write a persuasive letter/email

## Speaking & Listening agreeing and disagreeing

- 1 Read the three news extracts. What do all the news stories have in common?

### World News

HOME NEWS POLITICS BUSINESS ENTERTAINMENT SPORT



#### Smart parking meters in Madrid will charge more for more polluting cars

Under a new law which aims to reduce pollution in the capital, electric cars will park for free and hybrids will get 20% off 234 comments

#### China's polluters to face large fines under law change

China's legislature votes to revise 25-year-old environmental law to include harsh penalties for polluters



#### Proposed new traffic laws target distracted drivers across the UAE

There is no law against wearing sunglasses while driving at night, putting your make-up on, or sending a text message at the wheel - but that is about to change 676 comments

- 2a 7.4 ))) Listen to three friends talking about one of the news articles in exercise 1. Which one? How many of the speakers agree with the change in the law?
- b 7.4 ))) Work with a partner. Listen again and make notes of the arguments in favour of the change in the law (Student A) and against (Student B).

Student A

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Student B

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

- c Talk with your partner and compare your notes. Which side of the argument do you agree with? Why?

- 3 7.4 ))) Listen again and complete the phrases in the Language for speaking box.

### LANGUAGE FOR SPEAKING agreeing and disagreeing

#### Agreeing

*I'm <sup>1</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ you there. (more informal)*  
*I completely agree.*  
*True enough.*  
*Yes, that's spot on. (more informal)*  
*Absolutely!*  
*I don't think anyone would disagree with that.*  
*That's just what I was thinking.*  
*I couldn't agree more.*

#### Disagreeing

*That's not really how I <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ it.*  
*You can't be <sup>3</sup>\_\_\_\_\_! (more informal)*  
*Come <sup>4</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ it! (more informal)*  
*I'm not sure I quite agree.*  
*I can't agree with you there.*  
*I beg to differ.*  
*I'm not sure about that.*

### PRONUNCIATION agreeing or disagreeing strongly

- 4a 7.5 ))) Listen to the phrases in the Language for speaking box and mark those which are expressed strongly (i.e. with emphasis).
- b 7.6 ))) Listen to the strong phrases. Notice the stress and how the intonation rises and falls.
- c 7.6 ))) Listen again and repeat.
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- 5a Work with a partner. Choose one of the other headlines in exercise 1 (or another new or proposed law you know about) and make a list of arguments in favour (Student A) and against (Student B).
- b Discuss the law together, making your arguments for or against. As friends, you can be quite informal and emphatic.
- c Now have the same conversation, imagining that you are two work colleagues who don't know each other very well. How does your language change?

- 6 Look at the dictionary definition of 'campaign' and discuss the following questions with your partner.

**campaign** *verb* campaign for/against sb/sth – to take part in a planned series of activities in order to make something happen or to prevent something happening

- 1 What kind of things do people campaign about? Give 3–5 examples.
- 2 Have you ever taken part in a campaign? If so, tell your partner about it. If not, why not?

## Writing writing a persuasive letter/email

- 7 Look at the following campaigns on a website. Which, if either, would you support? Why/Why not?

HOME CAMPAIGNS NEWS JOIN US DONATE

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### CAMPAIGN

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## Reduce street homelessness

We need to pressure the government to do more to help get homeless people off the streets and into safe accommodation, where they can start to rebuild their lives.

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### CAMPAIGN

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## Stop cuts to support for disabled people

The government is planning to make huge cuts in public spending on support for sick and disabled people, putting tens of thousands of people into poverty. Send an email to your MP to argue against these cuts.



- 8a Read this email sent in support of one of the campaigns in exercise 7 and add the underlined phrases to the correct section in the Language for writing box.

Sent: TUESDAY 12.29

Subject: street homelessness

Dear Mr Smith,

I am writing to ask you to support our campaign to end street homelessness.

Although there have been some improvements, it is obvious that too many people are still having difficulty in finding a safe place to spend the night.

Without sufficient hostel places we cannot protect the often young and very vulnerable. Unless something is done, the numbers of those suffering from cold, hunger and even attacks by members of the public will continue to grow.

I urge you to add your support to this campaign.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Claire Hall

## LANGUAGE FOR WRITING writing a persuasive letter/email

A persuasive letter or email will usually be quite formal because the writer is hoping to make the reader see that this is an important matter, and because the writer wants to be taken seriously.

### Introducing the topic

*I am writing to express my deep concern about ...*

a \_\_\_\_\_

### Introducing your argument

*I feel strongly that ...*

b \_\_\_\_\_

### Consequences of not taking action

*This issue must be addressed or ...*

c \_\_\_\_\_

d \_\_\_\_\_

### Request for action

*I hope you will feel able to add your support to this campaign.*

e \_\_\_\_\_

### Closing

f \_\_\_\_\_

*I thank you in advance for your support in this important matter.*

- b Check your answers with a partner.
- 9 **TASK** Using the other campaign, or something else you feel strongly about, write your own persuasive email.
- 10 Read your partner's email. Can you suggest any ideas or language which would make it more effective?