

Useful phrases and expressions for textwork

1. Introducing a point

- First of all I'd like to point out...
- To start with, (we haven't enough) money ...
- The main problem is ...
- The question of ...

2. Stating something as a fact

- As everyone knows ...
- There can be no doubt that ...
- It is common knowledge that ...
- It is generally accepted that ...
- It is a fact that ...
- Nobody will deny that ...

3. Expressing a personal opinion

- In my opinion ...
- It seems to me that ...
- As far as I'm concerned ...
- I think/ assume/ feel/ fear that ...
- I certainly think ...
- From my point of view ...
- In my view ...
- I'm of the opinion that ...
- As I see it, ...
- I personally believe
- I am quite sure (that) ...
- As far as I can see ...
- to support / sympathize with someone
- to blame / criticize someone for
- to be annoyed / angry / furious with somebody / at something
- to feel sympathy for / antipathy towards / hostility against
- to dislike

4. Expressing pros and cons

- There are two sides to the question ...
- On the one hand ..., on the other hand ...
- Some people think ..., others say ...
- but / however / yet / still / on the contrary / nevertheless / (al)though / whereas
- An argument against ... is ...
- An argument for ... is ...
- An argument in favour of ... is ...

5. Expressing doubt

- I'm not sure if ...
- I doubt that very much.
- I'm not convinced that ...
- It is not very likely ...

6. Expressing disagreement

- I don't quite agree there.
- That argument just doesn't stand up / hold.
- If you believe that, you'll believe anything.
- As far as I can see it is not right ...
- You have to admit that ...
- I can't accept the view that ...
- I object to the thought ...
- I disagree with ...

7. Expressing support

- That's a very good point / idea.
- I'm of the same opinion as ...
- probably / possibly / perhaps / maybe
- That's how I feel (about it), too.
- I agree entirely.

8. Giving reasons

- The reason for this is ...
- I base my argument on ...
- This is why ...
- This is due to ...
- One reason for this ...
- This is caused by ...

9. Drawing conclusions

- The obvious conclusion is ...
- The only alternative left is ...
- And so / In that case we are justified to say that ...
- There is only one conclusion to be drawn from this.
- To conclude / In conclusion (= abschließend) we may say that ...
- All in all / In short we may say that ...
- Taking everything into consideration / account we may say that ...
- so / therefore / thus / as a result / consequently
- Last but not least ...
- The only possible solution is ...

10. Giving a summary

- Finally, I would like to say ...
- To cut a long story short, ... (Um es kurz zu machen, ...)
- In other words
- last of all
- all in all
- Summing up ...
- in the end
- my final point

11. Enumeration

- First(ly) / In the first place ...
- And thirdly ...
- To begin with, ...
- One point I want to make is ...
- also / again / too
- Then / Moreover / In addition to that / Another point/aspect is ...
- Secondly / In the second place ...
- Finally / Lastly ...
- For a start / To start with ...
- besides
- furthermore

12. Examples

- Here are some examples of ...
- This can be demonstrated by an example:
- for instance
- He then supports his argument by a quotation / an example.

13. Structural summary

- The text deals with the problems of ...
- ... is the topic / the subject of the text / article.
- The theme of ... runs through the text.
- The author writes / speaks about / discusses ...
- The text's main ideas are ...
- The paragraph is about ... / The general topic of the paragraph is ...
- The text can be divided into three main sections / parts.
- In line 10 the fourth part / section of the story is introduced.
- A new aspect is introduced in lines 10 to 20. / ... is described in lines 10-20.
- The second section (ll. 10-20) deals with / is about ...
- The first / second / third / following / next paragraph is about ...
- In the ... paragraph the author goes into details.
- The author introduces us to ...
- The text is about ...