

Lesson Plan:

Disagreeing diplomatically in a meeting

LEVEL	TIME	TOPIC
Intermediate-Advanced (B2/C1)	60 minutes	Disagreeing diplomatically in a meeting

Objectives

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to challenge an idea clearly while preserving a collaborative tone. They will also use evidence from the supplied material and appropriate language to explain a choice or qualify a claim.

Materials

Whiteboard, pens, and paper. Copy or display the supplied model and practice details; hide partner-only details until checking. All sample data are fictional.

Warm-Up Activity (8 minutes)

Activity: Ask whether the response agrees to the full launch.

Presentation (15 minutes)

Model acknowledgment, specific concern, evidence, and an alternative. Avoid using hedges that hide the actual disagreement.

Language support: acknowledgment, concern, alternative; I see the benefit...; My concern is...; Could we...? Preserve the substance of disagreement.

Worked model / source: Proposal: launch to all teams Friday. Evidence: training completed by two of five teams. Model: I see the benefit of launching quickly. My concern is that three teams haven't completed training. Could we pilot with the two trained teams first?

Guided Practice (15 minutes)

Activity: Rewrite That's reckless and You ignored training into an evidence-based concern using the supplied facts.

Suggested answers / teacher notes: Possible: I'm concerned about readiness because only two of five teams have trained. Avoid accusing someone of motives.

Procedure: Complete the first item together. Partners attempt the remaining items before seeing the notes. Ask them to explain a correction, then rehearse the corrected version.

Independent Practice (17 minutes)

Task: A favors Friday launch to meet demand. B requests a pilot. Negotiate launch scope, training completion, and review date. Each acknowledges one legitimate concern from the other.

Success check: Check specific disagreement, supporting fact, workable alternative, and clear outcome. Excessive hedging should not conceal the objection.

Support and challenge: Offer the target phrase frames during planning. For a challenge, ask learners to justify a wording choice, consider a different audience, or identify a limitation without adding unsupported information.

Wrap-Up / Review (5 minutes)

Review: Ask for a diplomatic response to a suggestion they oppose.

Ask learners to explain their response using the model or practice material. Revisit one shared difficulty before collecting the final work.

Homework (Optional)

Draft two diplomatic disagreements for a fictional meeting.

Follow-up: Use the supplied model as a reference. Bring the response back for a brief partner check against the lesson objective; correct one detail or language choice before submitting it.