



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

**ENGLISH**   
**LANGUAGE**   
**PROGRAMS** 

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*The World is Your Classroom*

# Academic Listening & Speaking

Agenda for 9/20 & 9/21/2022 (T Matt & T Rose)

*\*location: American Corner classroom, student groups*

Song: “Try Everything” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c6rP-YP4c5I> *be confident!*

Review Communicative Grammar: comparison & contrast, *–er and more*

- C/C sentences: Thai people are \_\_\_\_ *whereas/while* American people are \_\_\_\_.

- Short reading: Brownsville (and Newport)

B is *similar* to N because \_\_\_\_\_; N is *different from* B because \_\_\_\_\_.

Therefore, N\_\_\_\_\_ is *better than* B\_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.

What local places would you show tourists?

Story-telling: Visiting Mexico

- Writing & Speaking activity



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Your Classroom*

SOURCE:  
 Bliss, Bill and  
 Steven J.  
 Molinsky. (2008).  
*SIDE by SIDE  
 PLUS*. Prentice-  
 Hall. New York:  
 Pearson  
 Education.

## How to Say It!

### Agreeing & Disagreeing



A. { I think . . .  
 In my opinion, . . .



B. { I agree.  
 I agree with you.  
 I think so, too.



C. { I disagree.  
 I disagree with you.  
 I don't think so.

Practice interactions on this page, using these expressions for agreeing and disagreeing.

## INTERACTIONS

\_\_\_\_\_er } than  
 more \_\_\_\_\_

as \_\_\_\_\_ as  
 not as \_\_\_\_\_ as

I think New York is more interesting than Los Angeles.

I disagree. I think Los Angeles is MUCH more interesting than New York.

In my opinion, the weather in Honolulu is better than the weather in Miami.

I don't think so. I think the weather in Miami is better than the weather in Honolulu.

In my opinion, the people in Centerville aren't as friendly as the people in Greenville.

I agree. But the people in Centerville are more interesting.

I think so, too.

Practice conversations with other students. Compare different places you know.  
 Talk about . . .

- the streets (quiet, safe, clean, wide, busy)
- the buildings (tall, modern, attractive)
- the weather (cold, cool, warm, hot, rainy, snowy)
- the people (friendly, nice, polite, honest, happy, hospitable, talkative, healthy)
- the city in general (large, interesting, exciting, expensive)



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## BROWNSVILLE

The Taylor family lived in Brownsville for many years. And for many years, Brownsville was a very good place to live. The streets were clean, the parks were safe, the bus system was reliable, and the schools were good.

But Brownsville changed. Today the streets aren't as clean as they used to be. The parks aren't as safe as they used to be. The bus system isn't as reliable as it used to be. And the schools aren't as good as they used to be.

Because of the changes in Brownsville, the Taylor family moved to Newport last year. In Newport the streets are cleaner, the parks are safer, the bus system is more reliable, and the schools are better. The Taylors are happy in Newport, but they were happier in Brownsville. Although Newport has cleaner streets, safer parks, a more reliable bus system, and better schools, Brownsville has friendlier people. They're nicer, more polite, and more hospitable than the people in Newport.

The Taylors miss Brownsville. Even though they're now living in Newport, Brownsville will always be their real home.

## VISITING MEXICO

A New Yorker went on a vacation to Mexico. He  
1  
hired a Mexican tour guide. First the tour guide  
2  
took the New Yorker to a big church. The New Yorker  
said, "It's beautiful. How long did it take to  
3  
build it?"

4  
"About five years," said the tour guide.

5  
"Five years?" said the New Yorker. "In the  
6  
United States we can build a church in one year!"

7  
Then the tour guide took the New Yorker to a  
8  
famous museum. The New Yorker said, "It's beautiful.  
How long did it take to build it?"

9  
"About five years," said the tour guide.

10  
"Five years?" said the New Yorker. "In the  
11  
United States we can build a museum in one year!"

12  
13  
The Mexican tour guide was angry. She took  
the New Yorker on a long bus ride. The New Yorker  
14  
looked out his window. He saw the great pyramids  
15  
in Mexico.

Heyer, Sandra. (1983).  
Picture Stories for  
Beginning  
Composition. N.Y:  
Regents Publ.



"Wow!" said the New Yorker. "Look at those  
pyramids!"

16

The Mexican tour guide put down the book she  
was reading and looked out the window. "Oh, my

17

gosh!" she said. "I don't believe it. They

18

weren't there yesterday!"

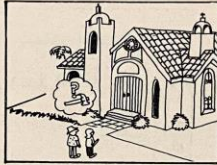


1. Where did the tour guide take the New Yorker first?



She took him to a big church.

2. What did the New Yorker say?



He said, "It's beautiful. How long did it take to build it?"

3. What did the tour guide say?



She said, "About five years."

4. What did the New Yorker say?



He said, "In the United States we can build a church in one year!"

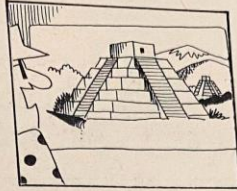
5. Where did she take the New Yorker?



She took him on a long bus ride.

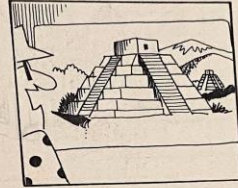


What did the New Yorker  
see when he looked out  
his window?



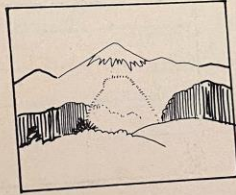
He saw the great pyramids  
in Mexico.

What did the New Yorker  
say?



He said, "Wow! Look at  
those pyramids!"

What did the Mexican  
tour guide say when she  
looked out her window?



She said, "Oh, my gosh!  
I don't believe it! They  
weren't there yesterday!"

