

### **They Say/I Say Exercise**

In this exercise, you will explore presenting contrasting opinions in English. This is an important skill for writing in English, especially in academic writing styles. You would normally use it to express disagreement with the arguments or ideas in a written text (like a book or academic article). However, in our class, you will use it to express a difference of opinion with one of your classmates.

We'll begin by pairing up and discussing opinions. Speak freely and honestly about your opinions.<sup>1</sup> Explore at least two differences in opinion that you have with your partner. Once you have found two differences of opinion, stand up and find a new partner. Repeat the process. After speaking with two people, sit down and choose what you think was the most interesting difference of opinion. This will be the focus of the two paragraphs you're writing for the Paragraph Blog this week.

Use the example below as a model for what you will write. Go through the paragraph and underline any phrases or template-able sentences that you could imitate in your own paragraph.

### **They Say / I Say Example Paragraph**

Professor Shim believes that Korean students should be required to take English classes. His main reason is that he thinks it is a necessity for students to improve their English, as they will need English in their careers. For example, if they work in a company they might need to deal with contracts written in English, or contact business partners abroad using English. "We must," he explains, "help them to prepare for their careers, and that includes helping them develop their English skills." Professor Shim thinks that because English is the global lingua franca, it is important to make sure that all Koreans speak it well. For these reasons, Professor Shim insists that all Korean students should be required to study English.

I disagree with Professor Shim, and I don't think all Korean students should be required to study English. I feel that instead, students should be allowed a choice of what they study. Specifically, I feel that not everyone should be required to study English, and that some people's time would be better spent studying history, science, art, or some other discipline. For example, last year I had a student who, despite his best effort, was unable to make progress in his English skills. He had wasted years studying English with no benefit. I would argue that realistically, even if English is the global lingua franca, Korea only needs a small proportion of its citizens to have fluency in English, and that a more balanced approach would benefit Korean society generally. For these reasons, I feel that not all Korean students should be required to study English.

Please note:

- The structure of each paragraph is similar.
- The first paragraph uses at least one quotation to support or clarify the position being explained.
- Both paragraphs give one or two reasons for the opinion they express.
- The second paragraph expresses a contrary opinion to the first paragraph.

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<sup>1</sup> However, don't be a jerk. Share opinions that are appropriate for a diverse group of people, and be polite about it.