Easy Access English



Never Assume!

Activity One - With your partner find definitions for the following expressions and verbs and then write a sentence with each one.

To make an assumption
You can't judge a book by its coverYou cant judge a sausage by its skin
To be judgmental
to assume
to think out of the box



Activity Two - How judgmental are you?

Ask and answer the questions with your partner.

1.Do you judge people on their appearance?
2.Do you judge people on their 'success', career, education?
3.Do you make quick judgments about people without really getting to know them?
4.How quickly do you form an opinion about someone you meet?
5.What do you base that opinion on?
6.Would you consider yourself to be open minded about religion and politics?
7.Out of 10, how tolerant are you about people with different opinions or ways of life?
8.So - again out of 10, how judgmental do you think you are?

Activity Three - (In Class - do not watch at home). Watch the video. We will stop the video after two seconds. Describe the man, what do you think he is like as a person? Now answer the same question again at the end of the video.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9mIBKifOOQQ&noredirect=1

What do you think about this video?

Activity Four - Common Assumptions. *Debate*.

Making assumptions is something we all do in many areas of our lives. An assumption is "something taken for granted or accepted as true without proof." In other words, it is belief without proof.

Let's discuss some common assumptions. We will each give our opinion **using the linking words and expressions on the next page.** We will debate each issue, attempting to change people's minds.



Here are a list of common assumptions. Which do you share?

- Having a good income means that people are happier.
- It's better to have a job as a manager than a job as an employee.
- Everyone wants to have children.
- Men are better at manual tasks than women.
- The slimmer you are the better you look.
- Life is better in the South of France.

USEFUL EXPRESSIONS TO EXPRESS YOUR OPINIONS

To my mind, ... As far as I am concerned, ... Speaking personally, ...

From my point of view, ... As for me / As to me, ... In my opinion, ...

My view / opinion / belief / impression / conviction is that ... I hold the view that ...

I would say that ... It seems to me that ... I am of the opinion that ...

My impression is that ... I am under the impression that ... I have the feeling that ...

My own feeling on the subject is that ... I have no doubt that ... I am sure / I am certain that ...

I think / consider / find / feel / believe / suppose / presume / assume that ...

I hold the opinion that ... (I form / adopt an opinion.) I dare say that ...

I guess that ... I gather that ... It goes without saying that ...

USEFUL WORDS TO EXPRESS YOUR AGREEMENT

I agree with you / him ... I share your view. I think so.

I really think so. He is quite right / absolutely right I have come to the same conclusion

I hold the same opinion. We are of one mind / of the same mind on that question.

I am at one with him on that point. It is true. That is right.

That's just it ! Fair enough ! Quite so !

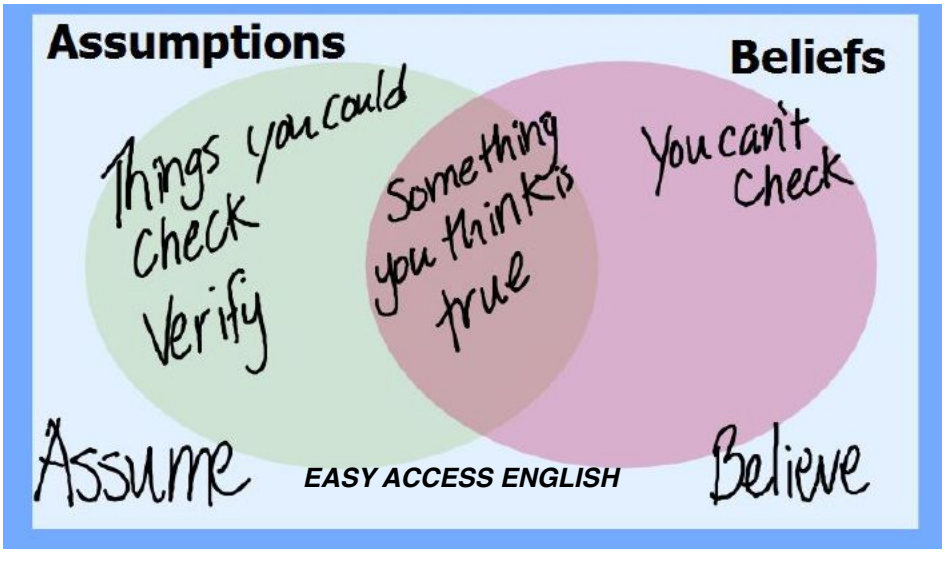
USEFUL WORDS TO EXPRESS YOUR DISAGREEMENT

I don't agree. **I disagree.** **I don't think so.**

You are / he is wrong. I think otherwise. I don't think that's quite right.

I don't agree with you/him. I don't agree with what you say. I am afraid that is not quite true.

I take a different view. I don't share his/her/your view. Not at all !



Activity Five - Read the poem and answer the **questions**.

The Cookie Thief
by Virginia Cox

"A woman was waiting at an airport one night,
With several long hours before her flight.
She hunted for a book in the airport shops.
Bought a bag of cookies and found a place to drop.
She was engrossed in her book but happened to see,
That the man sitting beside her, as bold as could be.
Grabbed a cookie or two from the bag in between,
Which she tried to ignore to avoid a scene.
So she munched the cookies and watched the clock,
As the gutsy cookie thief diminished her stock.
She was getting more irritated as the minutes ticked by,
Thinking, "If I wasn't so nice, I would blacken his eye."
With each cookie she took, he took one too,
When only one was left, she wondered what he would do.
With a smile on his face, and a nervous laugh,
He took the last cookie and broke it in half.
He offered her half, as he ate the other,
She snatched it from him and thought… oooh, brother.
This guy has some nerve and he's also rude,
Why he didn't even show any gratitude!
She had never known when she had been so galled,
And sighed with relief when her flight was called.
She gathered her belongings and headed to the gate,
Refusing to look back at the thieving ingrate.
She boarded the plane, and sank in her seat,
Then she sought her book, which was almost complete.
As she reached in her baggage, she gasped with surprise,
There was her bag of cookies, in front of her eyes.
If mine are here, she moaned in despair,
The others were his, and he tried to share.
Too late to apologize, she realized with grief,
That she was the rude one, the ingrate, the thief."

1. **Which idiomatic expressions / uses of verbs can you find in this poem?**
2. **What assumption did this woman make? How did she feel at the end?**
3. **Has anything like this ever happened to you?**

Activity Six - With your partner **act out** the scene described in the poem, but ***change the ending!***

Activity Seven - Word Race - in teams - see which team can be first to write a paragraph with all of the following words in it, that makes sense.

Assumption, Judgement, Stereotype, Bias, Perception, Racism, Implicit, Inclined to, Challenge, Face up to, Admit to, Fair, Discriminate, Negative.



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