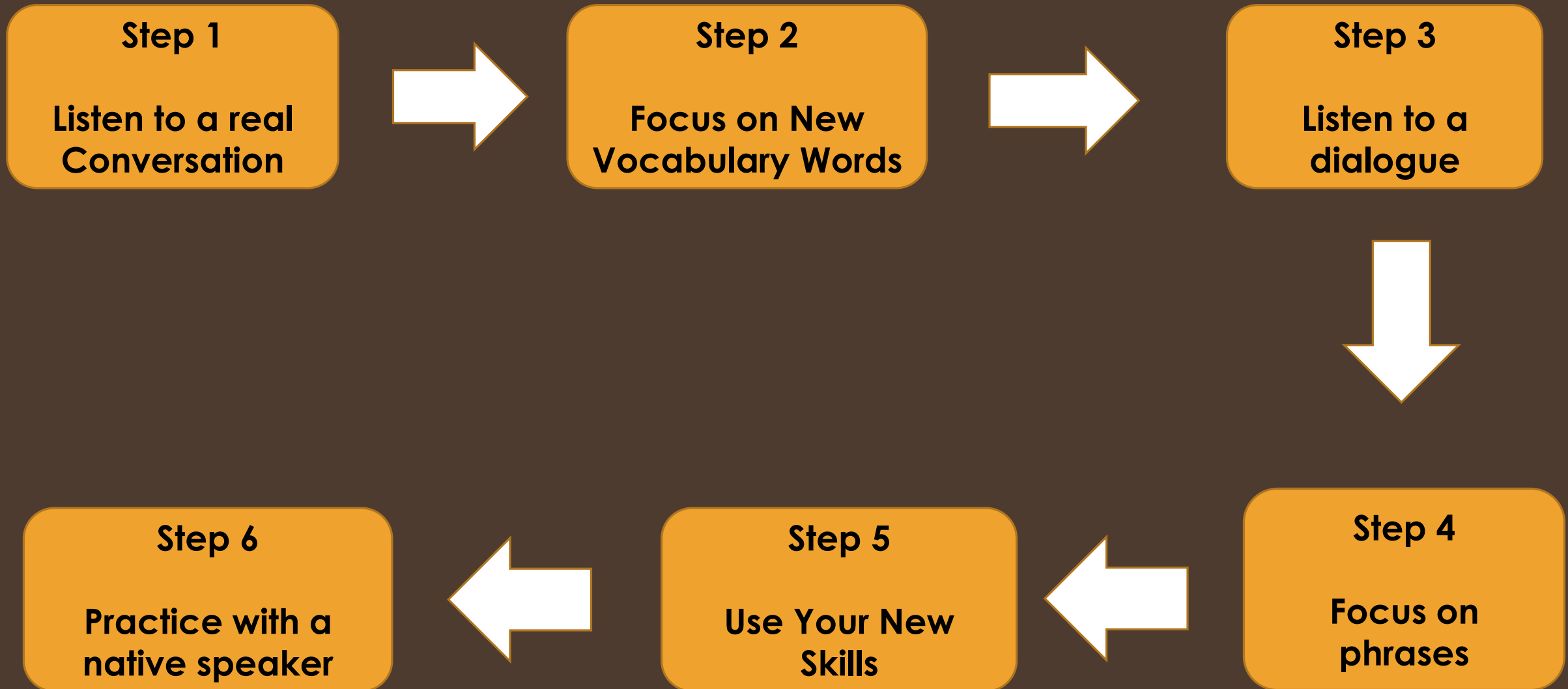




# How to Have a Friendly Argument in English

## A Vocabulary Lesson

# Our Method



# Step 1: Mac or PC?



**Please listen to Audio Step 1-Mac or PC?**

**Which kind of computer is better: the Mac or the PC?  
Everyone has a different opinion about this topic.  
Listen to this friendly argument.**

**Please view Transcript Step 1- Mac or PC?**

## Step 2: Focus on New Vocabulary Words

**"I would agree with you in some sense"**

**"I know what you mean about..."**

**"I just believe"**

**"I'm not so sure about that"**

**"I see your point"**

**"I guess so, but..."**

**"I'm still not convinced"**

**"That's just how I feel"**

“I see your  
point”



Meaning: This is a good way to say that you understand what the person is trying to say.

*I see your point, but I don't completely agree with you.*



**“I would agree with you in some sense...”**



**Meaning: You can lead into your opposing statement by saying that you do agree with the other person in certain ways, then introduce your perspective.**

***“I would agree with you in some sense, but I see it differently.”***

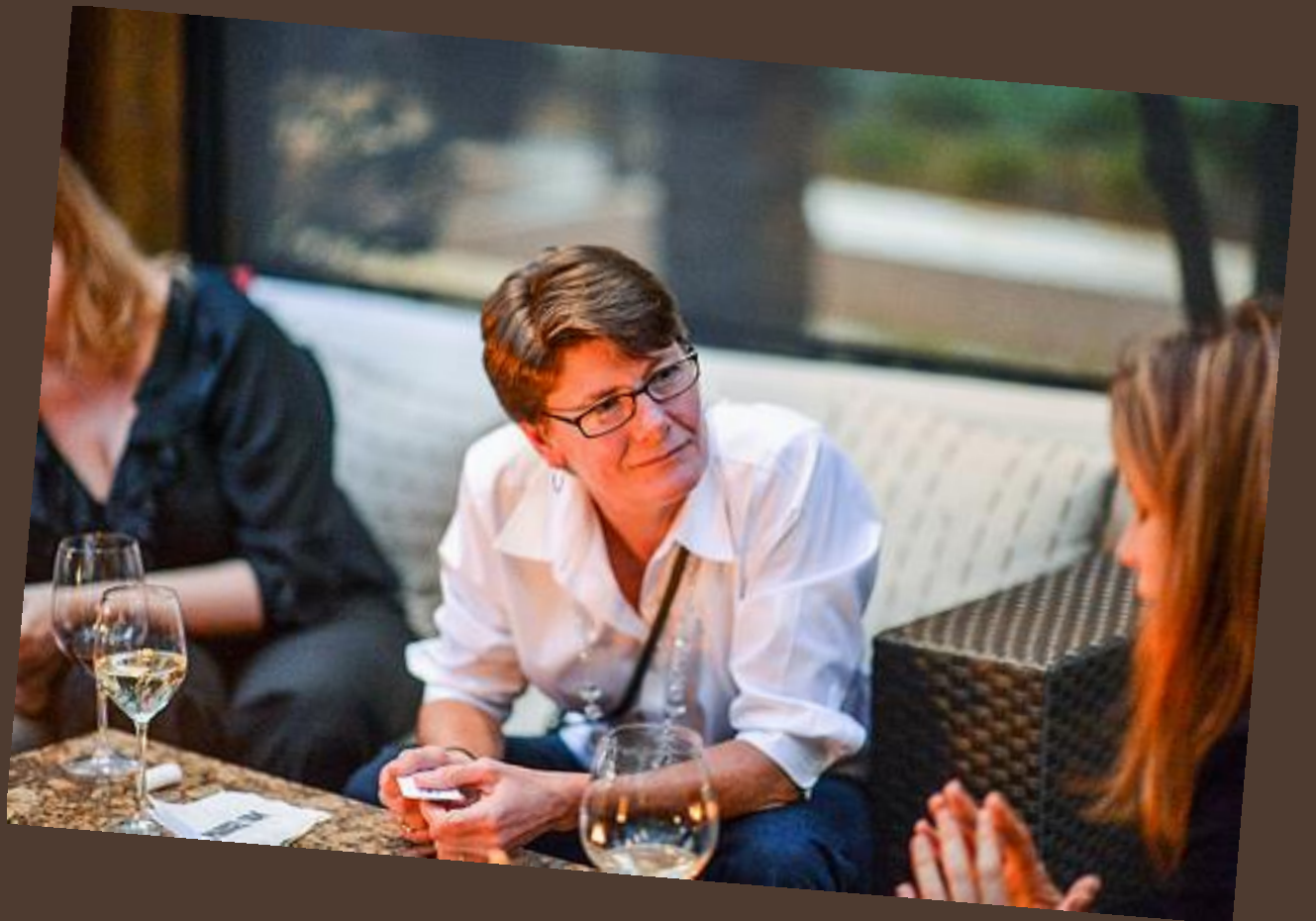
“I guess so”



Meaning: This is similar to “I would agree with you in some sense” but it’s more casual and it’s a good way to show that you have heard what the other person has said

*A: “I know that Macs are better for graphic designers.” B: “I guess so.”*

**“I know what  
you mean  
about...”**



**Meaning: This is another good way to validate what the other person has said  
and voice your opinion if it's different**

***“I know what you mean about...”***



**“I’m still not convinced”**



**Meaning: This is a good way to show that you still feel very strongly about your own point of view, even at the end of an argument.**

**“I’m still not convinced that PCs are better than Macs”**

**“I just  
believe”**



**Meaning: This phrase shows that there is feeling or emotion behind your point of view**

**“I just believe that all entrepreneurs should have access to great mentors.”**

**“That’s just  
how I feel”**



**Meaning: This is another way to say that your point of view is personal and subjective. This could be an effective way to end an argument if you don’t want to debate the topic anymore.**

**“Macs are better than PCs. That’s just how I feel.”**



**“I’m not so  
sure about  
that”**



**Meaning: This is a more polite way to say that you disagree with someone's statement**

***A: “Boston is the best city in the US for entrepreneurs.” B: “I’m not so sure about that”***



## Step 3: Should Smoking Be Banned in Bars?

In this conversation, listen to two friends argue about the recent ban on smoking in bars.

**Listen to Audio Steps 3 and 4-  
Should Smoking Be Banned in  
Bars?**



## Step 4: Focus on the Vocabulary Phrases

Learn the new vocabulary in context!

Please open Transcript Steps 3 and 4 – Should Smoking Be Banned in Bars?

- “I just believe that we have to keep bars safe”
- “I know what you mean about bars not being the right place for health-conscious people...”
- “Well I see your point and...”
- “I would agree with you in some sense...”
- “...but I’m still not convinced”
- “I’m not so sure about that, but...”
- “That’s just how I feel.”
- “I guess so, but bars are not exactly the healthiest places to be anyway.”

# Bonus! Say It Another Way!

Learn how to say the phrases in a different way!

**Click on the file “Say It Another Way”**

## Step 5: Use Your New Skills

**“I see your  
point”**

**“I would agree  
with you in some  
sense...”**

**“I guess so”**

**“I know what  
you mean  
about...”**

**“I’m still not  
convinced”**

**“I just  
believe”**

**“That’s just  
how I feel”**

**“I’m not so sure  
about that”**

A: So, in your opinion, which city is better for quality of life: Boston or New York?

B: I don’t know, 1 that Boston is a more peaceful city if you are talking about day to day life. The quality of life is just better.

A: 2. I mean, New York has some of the most famous museums in the world. Being able to go to those every weekend could make for a pretty great quality of life.

B: 3, but I still think Boston is better. You don’t have to spend your entire monthly salary on your rent.

A: No- 4. I would rather pay more to live in an amazing city than be bored every weekend in a smaller city.



**"I would agree with you in some sense..."**



**"I'm still not convinced"**



**"That's just how I feel"**

# Prepare Your Vocabulary Cards

**"I see your point"**



**"I know what you mean about..."**



**"I just believe"**



**"I guess so"**



**"I'm not so sure about that"**



# Step 6: Practice with a Native

Please carry out a light, friendly debate. The goal is to use the phrases that you have learned to maintain a good rapport with the other speaker, but to state your opinion clearly.

Please use these expressions: “I see your point” and “I would agree with you in some sense”

**Student-** You believe that the only way to truly learn about the world is to travel

**Conversation partner-** You believe that reading about international events and having international friends is enough to understand the world

**Bonus: Please use the phrases from Say It Another Way**(A= friend, B= friend)

A: *(student) I think it's crucial for people to travel abroad to understand the world.*

B: \_\_\_\_\_ (I see your point), but I can't agree completely. Staying connected to international friends is a great way to understand the outside world.

A: \_\_\_\_\_ (I would agree with you in some sense), but I think that nothing can take the place of actual travel experience abroad.

# Practice with a Native

Please carry out a light, friendly debate. The goal is to use the phrases that you have learned to maintain a good rapport with the other speaker, but to state your opinion clearly.

Please use these expressions: “I guess so” and “I know what you mean about...”

**Student-**You believe that workplaces should have a “casual Friday” option in their dress code

**Conversation partner-** You think that “casual Fridays” are unprofessional and might cause employees to be lazy in other areas of their work.

**Bonus: Please use the phrases from Say It Another Way** (A= employee B=boss)

A: *(student). Excuse me, sir, I would like to suggest that we have casual Fridays during the summer. It's a great way to motivate employees when they get distracted at work.*

B: \_\_\_\_\_ *(I know what you mean about) employees needing a little motivation during the summer months, especially on Fridays, but I'm afraid that it might distract people from their work. Besides, the summer is almost over.*

A: \_\_\_\_\_ *(I guess so), but you should really consider it for next summer.*



# Practice with a Native

Please carry out a light, friendly debate. The goal is to use the phrases that you have learned to maintain a good rapport with the other speaker, but to state your opinion clearly.

Please use these expressions: “I’m still not convinced” and “I just believe”

**Student-** You believe that social media sites like Facebook are making people narcissistic.

**Conversation partner-** You think that social media sites are a great way to stay in touch and that there is no problem with the way people use them.

**Bonus: Please use the phrases from Say It Another Way (A= roommate, B= roommate)**

A: *(student)* Are you on Facebook again?

B: Yeah, but just really quickly. I just want to check a few status updates.

A: \_\_\_\_\_ *(I just believe that)* Facebook can do more harm than good if you spend too much time on it.

B: Really? Why?

A: *The way that everyone posts pictures of themselves is so silly. It is making everyone narcissistic.*

B: \_\_\_\_\_ *(I’m still not convinced)*. Facebook is a great way to stay in touch with friends.



# Practice with a Native

Please carry out a light, friendly debate. The goal is to use the phrases that you have learned to maintain a good rapport with the other speaker, but to state your opinion clearly.

Please use these expressions: **"That's just how I feel"** and **"I'm not so sure about that"**

**Student-** You believe that same- sex marriage should be legal.

**Conversation partner-** You believe that same-sex marriage is wrong and should not be legal.

**Bonus: Please use the phrases from Say It Another Way (A= colleague, B= colleague)**

A: *(student)* So they just legalized same-sex marriage. I think it's wrong.

B: \_\_\_\_\_ (I'm not so sure about that). I think that everyone deserves a chance to get married and it's not just for heterosexual couples.

A: *I don't think it should be legal.* \_\_\_\_\_ *(that's just how I feel).*

B: Ok well then we can agree to disagree.

# Practice with a Native

**Please carry out a light, friendly debate about any of the following topics. The goal is to use the phrases that you have learned to maintain a good rapport with the other speaker, but to state your opinion clearly.**

- Animal testing for drugs, cosmetics, foods
- Androids versus iPhones
- The drinking age: 18 versus 21
- Abortion: Pro-life versus Pro- choice
- The death penalty
- Climate change: Is it real? Is it being created by humans?
- Do we depend too much on technology?
- Are same- sex schools a good idea or not?
- Does fashion matter?
- Does the US give too much foreign aid?

# Credits

- 1- I see your point- <http://www.flickr.com/photos/dellphotos/>
- 2- I would agree with you in some sense but- <http://www.flickr.com/photos/dellphotos/>
- 3- I guess so but: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/dellphotos/>
- 4- I know what you mean about: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/dellphotos/>
- 5 – Still not convinced: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/dellphotos/>
- 6- I just believe: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/dellphotos/>
- 7- that's just how I feel: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/dellphotos/>
- 8- I'm still not convinced: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/dellphotos/>
- 9- smoking in bars: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/eschipul/>
- Cover photo : <http://www.flickr.com/photos/dellphotos/>

# Step 5 Answers

1- I just believe that

2- I'm not so sure about that

3- I see your point

4- I'm still not convinced