TOPIC 1

Stating a personal view

If you ask me... / To me... / I believe that...

Several natural expressions can be used for introducing personal ideas. **If you ask me** and **To me** place the speaker's point of view at the beginning. **I suppose**, **I believe that...** and **It seems to me that...** introduce a complete idea or judgment. These expressions are especially useful when discussing genres, lyrics, mood, instruments or the effect of music.

MODEL

If you ask me, jazz will be nice.

It seems to me that mood affects music choices.

Expression	Pattern	Example
If you ask me,	+ complete idea	**If you ask me**, jazz is relaxing.
To me,	+ complete idea	**To me**, lyrics matter most.
I suppose (that)...	subject + verb	I suppose music **keeps me active**.
I believe that...	that-clause	I believe that **music can change moods**.
It seems to me that...	that-clause	It seems to me that **genre matters**.

1. **If you ask me**, jazz will be nice for a long drive.
2. **To me**, meaningful lyrics make a song more memorable.
3. **It seems to me that** music and mood affect one another.

Opinion frame + complete idea: After **I believe that...** or **It seems to me that...**, use a full clause.

TOPIC 2

Showing agreement naturally

You have a point there — No doubt about it

A wide range of agreement expressions. **You are right, That's so true, You have a point there, No doubt about it, That's exactly how I feel** and **I share your point** show clear agreement. **I tend to agree with you** and **I agree to an extent** are slightly more cautious because they suggest partial rather than complete agreement.

MODEL

You have a point there.

I tend to agree with you at this point.

Strength	Useful expression	Meaning
strong	No doubt about it.	complete agreement
strong	That's exactly how I feel.	same personal view
neutral	You have a point there.	the idea is valid
partial	I tend to agree with you.	agreement with some caution
partial	I agree to an extent.	not complete agreement

1. **You have a point there**; energetic music can keep people active.
2. **No doubt about it**; the singer's voice can affect a song strongly.
3. **I tend to agree with you** at this point.

Partial agreement is not total agreement:I tend to agree and **I agree to an extent** leave room for a different point.

TOPIC 3

Expressing a different view

I'm afraid I disagree — That's not always true

Both direct and softened disagreement. **I totally disagree, I don't think so, No way** and **I'd say the exact opposite** are strong. **I'm afraid I disagree, I'm not sure about that, I don't feel the same** and **That's not always true** sound more cautious. A reason can follow to make the response clearer and more persuasive.

MODEL

I'm afraid I disagree.

That's not always true.

Tone	Expression	Possible continuation
softened	I'm afraid I disagree.	...because many pop songs are emotional.
softened	I'm not sure about that.	...the research may have another explanation.
softened	That's not always true.	...some videos do not match the lyrics.
strong	I totally disagree.	...rhythm is not the only important element.
strong	I'd say the exact opposite.	...slow music helps me focus.

1. **I'm afraid I disagree**; many pop songs focus strongly on emotions.
2. **That's not always true**; some music videos do not match the lyrics.
3. **I don't feel the same** about rock music.

Add a reason when possible:A disagreement sounds more meaningful when it is followed by **because...** or an example.

TOPIC 4

Stating a general preference

I prefer songs... / I like rock more than jazz

Prefer can be followed by a noun or noun phrase when you state what you generally choose or enjoy more. Use sentences such as **I prefer songs with meaningful lyrics** and **They prefer genres like country, rock, or folk music**. Another comparison pattern is **like A more than B**, which compares two alternatives directly.

MODEL

I prefer songs with meaningful lyrics.

I like rock more than jazz.

Pattern	Use	Example
prefer + noun	general preference	I **prefer soft tunes**.
prefer + noun phrase	general preference	I **prefer songs with meaningful lyrics**.
like A more than B	direct comparison	I **like rock more than jazz**.
be fond of + noun	positive preference/interest	Some people **are fond of instrumentalists**.

1. I **prefer songs with meaningful lyrics**.
2. I **like rock more than jazz**.
3. Some people **are fond of instrumentalists**.

Keep the comparison pattern complete:like rock more than jazz

TOPIC 5

Choosing one option instead of another

I'd rather listen to country than blues

Would rather expresses a preference in a particular situation. It is followed by the **base form** of the verb, without **to**. When two choices are compared, use **would rather + V1 + than + noun/V1**. The contracted form **I'd rather** is the normal form in conversation.

MODEL

I'd rather listen to country than blues.

I'd rather listen to energetic, upbeat music.

ONE CHOICE

would rather + V1

I'd rather **listen** to soft rock.

TWO CHOICES

would rather + V1 + than + noun/V1

I'd rather **listen** to country **than** blues.

NEGATIVE

would rather not + V1

I'd rather not **listen** to noisy music.

CONTRACTION

I would rather I'd rather

I'd rather **choose** jazz.

1. I'd **rather listen to country than blues**.
2. I'd **rather listen to energetic, upbeat music** in the office.
3. I'd **rather not listen to** noisy, raucous music in public.

No to after would rather:would rather listen · "would rather to listen"

TOPIC 6

Would prefer to + verb

He would prefer to play the drums

Would prefer is followed by **to + base verb**: **would prefer to play**. This differs from **would rather**, which takes the base verb without **to**. Preference structures can also be followed by reasons about **lyrics, mood, rhythm, harmony, instrumentation** and the effect of a particular genre.

MODEL

He would prefer to play the drums.

She would prefer to listen to soft tunes because they are soothing.

Structure	Correct form	Meaning
would prefer + to + V1	would prefer **to play**	preferred action
would rather + V1	would rather **play**	same function, different grammar
prefer + noun	prefer **soft music**	general preference
like A more than B	like **rock more than jazz**	direct comparison

1. He **would prefer to play** the drums.
2. She **would prefer to listen to** soft tunes because they are soothing.
3. For a long journey, I **would prefer to choose** relaxing music.

Compare the forms:would prefer to listen · would rather listen