

Answers

A) Match the phrases to the definitions

Based on the context of the phrases above, can you match the words in the box to the definitions listed below? Then add the word into the example sentence. You may need to change the form of the word to fit the meaning of the sentence.

to go along with	a pertinent point	to have some reservations about
in hindsight	to make do with	to get away with
could do with	might as well	to fill someone in on
viability	to get back to someone	to a certain extent

1. To talk to someone again in order to give them information, especially when you were not able to give them information before: **to get back to someone**

*"Let me go away and check that and I'll **get back to** you."*

*"I requested some information from them but they haven't **got back to** me yet."*

2. An opinion which is appropriate and helpful: **a pertinent point**

*"That's a very **pertinent point**."*

*"John made a very **pertinent point** earlier, and I'd like to discuss that a bit further if possible."*

3. An expression used to make an unenthusiastic suggestion meaning that we would have nothing to lose by doing something: **might as well**

*"We **might as well** accept the offer because we have nothing to lose."*

*"I don't think that they would be interested in our proposal, but we **might as well** reach out to them anyway."*

4. To agree to a person or a proposal: **to go along with**

*"I could **go along with** that"*

*"I could **go along with** your proposal if you provided some more definitive projected profits."*

5. Partly but not completely: **to a certain extent**

*"I agree with you **to a certain extent**. However, I believe that you are not quite right regarding some of the potential risks."*

6. To do something and escape any negative consequences or punishment: **to get away with**

*"Let's see if we can **get away with** increasing the price by 10%."*

*"Do you think that we could **get away with** postponing the launch date until next week?"*

7. To give some updated information: **to fill someone in on**

*"Just to **fill** you **in on** the latest regarding the arrangements for the event."*

*"Could you **fill** me **in on** the latest regarding the merger?"*

8. Looking back and understanding a situation after it has happened. This is often used at the beginning of a sentence: **In hindsight,**

*"**In hindsight**, we should have paid a little more attention to the potential risks."*

*"**In hindsight**, we shouldn't have rejected their offer."*

9. To manage with something that is less than you would like to have or of lower quality: **to make do with**

*"We might have to **make do with** the current budget if we can't acquire more funds."*

*"We can't afford a new car so we will have to **make do with** the old one."*

10. To be unsure that something is right, or unsure that something is a good suggestion: **to have reservations about**

*"I **have reservations about** the plan. I think it is a little bit overambitious with our budget."*

*"I **have reservations about** increasing the price. I think it could hurt a lot of our loyal customers during these difficult economic times."*

11. Ability to be successful: **viability**

*"We need to consider the long-term **viability** of that system. Can we realistically sustain it?"*

12. An expression to say that we could really benefit from something: **could do with**

*"We **could do with** setting up a meeting next week."*

*"We **could do with** an extra \$10 000 if we want to stay within the budget."*

B) Key Words in a New Context

What Constitutes a Healthy Debate?

Debates are a captivating battleground of ideas, perspectives, and opinions. They provide us with a unique opportunity to challenge our own beliefs and broaden our horizons. Of course, they take place all the time in business, and debating could be considered one of the most important skills necessary for success. However, few people take the time to master the skill, and many debates can descend into utter chaos and hostility regardless of the topic or the

professional surroundings. Below are some top tips on how to contribute to a constructive debate!

Everyone around the debate table wants the debate to run smoothly. However, be careful not to allow this to prevent you from voicing your disagreement. Simply **going along with** every opinion that you hear certainly does not constitute a healthy debate. If you disagree with something, or if you only agree **to a certain extent**, it is important to speak up and allow your voice to be heard. If you simply nod along in agreement with every statement then you **might as well** stay at home!

If you do **have reservations** about a certain suggestion, it is important to state your concerns respectfully and with an open mind, giving the other person an opportunity to address your concerns and offer further insight. In fact, active listening is one of the cornerstones to successful debating. Always allow speakers to finish voicing their opinion before you offer your own contribution, and try to avoid interrupting too much, as this can put others on the defensive. If someone makes a **pertinent point**, even if it is one that you don't agree with, make sure to tell them that they have brought an interesting opinion to the table.

If you have a strong opinion to contribute, then it is important to support your point of view with evidence or statistics. In a constructive debate, you can't **get away with** throwing opinions out there without anything to back them up. Participants will simply dismiss the **viability** of your ideas as there is no evidence that they will work, and you will lose credibility for further contributions in the debate. Prepare for any challenges or questions related to your opinion by identifying potential flaws in your argument before the debate begins. If you have immediate responses ready, then people will be more likely to be won over by your argument. If someone asks you a challenging question for which you **could do with** some more time to give a cohesive response, simply explain that you will **get back to** them in the next few days.

In the aftermath of a debate, take a moment to reflect on your own performance. **In hindsight**, could you have listened more attentively? Did you back up your points with sufficient evidence? Did you consider alternative perspectives? Taking time to evaluate yourself can be a painful experience, but it can certainly pay off when mastering such a difficult skill!

C) Comprehension Questions

1. Based on the context of the first paragraph, what can happen if people have limited debating skills?
Debates can descend into utter chaos and hostility. To 'descend into' something means to fall gradually into a bad state.
2. What can happen if you interrupt too much during a debate?
Interrupting too much during a debate can 'put others on the defensive'. To put someone on the defensive means to cause someone to act defensively in a discussion, argument or debate.
3. Based on the context in paragraph 4, what do you think the phrase 'identifying potential flaws' means?

A 'flaw' is a fault or weakness in something. It is especially used in relation to plans, theories, strategies and arguments. We can deduce this from the context, as the paragraph discusses dealing with challenges and questions about your arguments.

4. What is the benefit of being able to respond quickly to questions and challenges in a debate?

It can help you to win people over. To win someone over means to persuade someone to support something after they were originally against it.

5. Based on the context of the final paragraph, what do you think is meant by the phrase 'in the aftermath'?

'The aftermath' refers to the consequences or the period after a significant event has taken place. We can deduce this from the context of the final paragraph, as the main topic of the final paragraph deals with reflecting back on the debate.