

# 12 Talking points

## Glossary

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- 12.1 talking point** (n) /'tɔ:kɪŋ pɔɪnt/  
a subject for discussion • *The celebrity's divorce has become a talking point in the press.* ❖ argomento di conversazione
- 12.2 controversial** (adj) /kɒntrə'vɜ:ʃl/  
causing disagreement • *The podcast discusses the controversial topic of vegetarianism.* > controversy (n)  
❖ controverso
- 12.3 conflicting** (adj) /kən'flɪktɪŋ/  
which differ or give opposite views • *The two websites gave conflicting advice on healthy eating, so I didn't know which one to believe.* > conflict (n, v) ❖ conflittuale
- 12.4 gesture** (n) /'dʒestʃə(r)/  
a movement made with your hands, arms or head to indicate a meaning • *He pointed to his watch as a gesture that it was time to go.* > gesture (v) ❖ gesto
- 12.5 commentator** (n) /'kɒməntətə(r)/  
a speaker commenting on a topic or event • *The government's decision was criticised by commentators on social media.* > commentate (v), commentary (n) ❖ commentatore
- 12.6 smoke signal** (n) /'sməʊk sɪgnəl/  
a way of communicating to sb far away by using smoke • *In ancient times, people used a system of smoke signals from hilltops to communicate news of an enemy approaching.* ❖ segnale di fumo
- 12.7 printing press** (n) /'prɪntɪŋ pres/  
a machine used to print words on paper to produce books or newspapers • *Before the invention of the printing press, any copies of written work had to be done by hand.* ❖ macchina da stampa
- 12.8 continually** (adv) /kən'tɪnjuəli/  
in a way that does not stop • *Technology is continually developing.* > continual (adj)  
❖ continuamente
- 12.9 fundamentally** (adv) /fʌndə'mentəli/  
completely; essentially • *My friend and I get on well although our interests are fundamentally different.* > fundamental (adj)  
❖ fondamentalmente

- 12.10 dissimilar** (adj) /dɪ'sɪmɪlə(r)/  
different • *Mandarin is completely dissimilar to any other language I know.* > dissimilarity (n)  
❖ diverso
- 12.11 hieroglyphics** (n pl) /,haɪərə'glɪfɪks/  
ancient Egyptian writing symbols • *Archaeologists discovered some hieroglyphics written on the walls in the ruins.* ❖ geroglifici
- 12.12 non-verbal** (adj) /nɒn 'vɜ:bl/  
without spoken words • *You can often understand whether a person is telling the truth by their non-verbal communication.* ❖ non verbale
- 12.13 pick up** (phr v) /pɪk ʌp/  
detect or get a meaning • *From his expression, I picked up that he was feeling upset.* ❖ desumere
- 12.14 facial** (adj) /'feɪʃl/  
related to the face • *I bought a new facial moisturizer that smells great!* ❖ facciale
- 12.15 posture** (n) /'pɒstʃə(r)/  
the position of your body when you sit or stand • *She sat back on the sofa in a relaxed posture.* ❖ postura
- 12.16 simply** (adv) /'sɪmpli/  
only • *He simply did his job for the money. He never liked it.* > simple (adj) ❖ semplicemente
- 12.17 hold a conversation** (expr) /həʊld ə ,kɒnvə'seɪʃn/  
discuss sth with sb • *He speaks French well enough to be able to hold a basic conversation.* ❖ sostenere una conversazione
- 12.18 simultaneously** (adv) /,sɪml'teɪniəsli/  
at the same time • *You shouldn't drive and send text messages simultaneously.* > simultaneous (adj) ❖ contemporaneamente
- 12.19 negatively** (adv) /'negətɪvli/  
in a bad way • *The use of technology in education is perceived negatively by some teachers.* > negative (adj), negativity (n)  
❖ negativamente 🗉 Opp: positively
- 12.20 carry on (a discussion)** (expr) /'kæri ɒn (ə dɪ'skʌʃn)/  
have or continue (a discussion) • *I'm too tired to carry on our discussion about politics right now.* ❖ tenere una conversazione

- 12.21 call time (on)** (expr) /kɔ:l taɪm (ɒn)/  
decide it's time to stop • *They decided it was best to call time on their marriage and get a divorce.* ❖ porre fine
- 12.22 'get-out' clause** (n) /'get aʊt klɔ:z/  
an excuse to avoid doing sth; a part of an agreement that allows sb to avoid doing sth  
• *I really don't feel like going to the dinner party, so I'm looking for a 'get-out' clause.*  
❖ clausola di uscita
- 12.23 ear buds** (n pl) /'ɪə bʌdz/  
a type of tiny headphones worn inside the ears • *My new smartphone came with a set of ear buds, which I wear while I'm walking.*  
❖ auricolari
- 12.24 futurist** (n) /'fju:tʃərɪst/  
sb who studies what can happen in the future and makes predictions • *Futurists predict that the world's population will rise considerably.*  
> futuristic (adj) ❖ futurista
- 12.25 redundant** (adj) /rɪ'dʌndənt/  
no longer used or needed • *Some people believe that printed books will become redundant in favour of digital forms in the future.* ❖ in esubero
- 12.26 insight (into)** (n) /'ɪnsaɪt (ɪntə)/  
a piece of information or close look that gives you an understanding of sth • *Her article gave us more insight into the origins of written language.* > insightful (adj) ❖ approfondimento
- 12.27 intermediary** (n) /,ɪntə'mi:diəri/  
sb/sth that aids communication between people or organisations, e.g. to help reach an agreement • *An estate agent can act as an intermediary negotiating between the house buyer and the seller.* ❖ intermediario
- 12.28 comparable** (adj) /'kɒmpərəbl/  
similar in a way that can be compared • *I think the Spanish lifestyle is comparable to that of the Italians.* > comparability (n), comparably (adv) ❖ paragonabile 📖 Opp: incomparable
- 12.29 disbelief** (n) /,dɪsbɪ'li:ʃ/  
lack of believing sth • *My boss looked at me in disbelief when I said I was moving abroad.*  
> disbelieve (v) ❖ incredulità 📖 Opp: belief
- 12.30 multitask** (v) /,mʌltɪ'tɑ:sk/  
do several things at the same time • *Having three small children and a full-time job, Betty has to multitask on a daily basis.*  
> multitasking (n) ❖ fare più cose contemporaneamente
- 12.31 witness** (v) /'wɪtnəs/  
see sth as it happens • *A woman opposite the bank witnessed the robbers escaping.*  
> witness (n) ❖ testimone

- 12.32 etiquette** (n) /'etɪkət/  
the rules of accepted or polite behaviour in a particular group or activity • *Restaurant customers have got used to the non-smoking etiquette indoors.* ❖ etichetta
- 12.33 broaden** (v) /'brɔ:dn/  
expand or increase • *Spending a year as an intern broadened her chances of finding a good job.* > broad (adj) ❖ ampliare
- 12.34 empathetic** (adj) /,empə'tetɪk/  
able to relate to how sb feels and understand their feelings • *Having worked his way up the hard way, he is empathetic to factory workers from similar backgrounds.* > empathy (n), empathise (v) ❖ empatico

## Vocabulary Page 140

- 12.35 intercultural** (adj) /,ɪntə'kʌltʃərəl/  
involving different cultures • *We attended an intercultural music festival with bands from all continents.* ❖ interculturale
- 12.36 articulate** (adj) /ɑ:'tɪkjələt/  
able to speak well, with a good vocabulary  
• *She's now more articulate after taking the course in public speaking.* > articulate (v)  
❖ articolato
- 12.37 understanding** (n) /,ʌndə'stændɪŋ/  
knowledge (of sth/sb in particular) • *He began to develop an understanding of the indigenous people as he observed their customs.*  
> understand (v), understandable (adj)  
❖ comprensione
- 12.38 convention** (n) /kən'venʃn/  
an accepted way of behaving • *Jan follows the British convention of offering tea to her guests.*  
> conventional (adj) ❖ convenzione
- 12.39 tone** (n) /təʊn/  
the attitude or type of sound expressed • *The talk show host spoke to her guests in a relaxed tone.* ❖ tono
- 12.40 consensus** (n) /kən'sensəs/  
an opinion that the majority agrees with  
• *There is a general consensus in favour of combatting homelessness.* ❖ consenso
- 12.41 confrontation** (n) /,kɒnfrʌn'teɪʃn/  
a direct meeting involving conflict/disagreement • *The demonstrators tried to avoid confrontation with the police.*  
> confront (v) ❖ confronto

- 12.42** **relent** (v) /rɪ'lent/  
give in and agree to sth unwillingly • *The protestors would not relent until the politicians met their demands.* > relentless (adj)  
❖ cedere, calmarsi
- 12.43** **submit** (v) /səb'mɪt/  
give in (to sb/sth stronger); surrender  
• *They refused to submit without a fight.*  
> submission (n), submissive (adj)  
❖ sottomettersi
- 12.44** **contradict** (v) /kən'trədɪkt/  
question what sb says and say that the opposite is true • *The police evidence contradicted the killer's statement.*  
> contradiction (n), contradictory (adj)  
❖ contraddire
- 12.45** **provoke** (v) /prə'vəʊk/  
make sb angry • *He's in a bad mood, so don't say anything to provoke an argument.*  
> provocation (n), provocative (adj)  
❖ provocare
- 12.46** **concede** (v) /kən'si:d/  
admit that sth you disagreed with is true; give in • *She conceded that she had made a mistake and apologised.* > concession (n)  
❖ ammettere
- 12.47** **settle** (v) /'setl/  
end a disagreement • *The neighbours are still trying to settle their argument about their parking areas.* > settlement (n) ❖ risolvere
- 12.48** **object** (v) /əb'dʒekt/  
not like, agree with or approve of sth • *Many groups object to the plans for construction work in conservation areas.* > objection (n)  
❖ obiettare
- 12.49** **resolve** (v) /rɪ'zɒlv/  
solve or end a problem or difficulty • *Through friendly discussions, we resolved our problems together.* > resolution (n) ❖ risolvere
- 12.50** **hostile** (adj) /'hɒstɪl/  
aggressive and unfriendly • *It was an excellent match despite the hostile behaviour of some fans in the stadium.* > hostility (n)  
❖ ostile
- 12.51** **inflexible** (adj) /ɪn'fleksɪbl/  
unwilling to change • *The club rules are inflexible and only members are allowed in.*  
> inflexibility (n) ❖ inflessibile 📖 Opp: flexible
- 12.52** **critical thinking** (n) /,krɪtɪkl 'θɪŋkɪŋ/  
the process of thinking analytically and objectively to make a logical decision  
• *Students are encouraged to develop critical thinking skills to assess information instead of just learning things by heart.* ❖ pensiero critico
- 12.53** **confirm** (v) /kən'fɜ:m/  
show that sth is definitely true • *The email I received confirmed what I suspected all along.* > confirmation (n) ❖ confermare

- 12.54** **generalise** (v) /'dʒenərəlaɪz/  
say sth general about a topic without giving specific examples or details • *There are a variety of reasons for homelessness, so we shouldn't generalise about them.*  
> generalisation (n) ❖ generalizzare
- 12.55** **reconsider** (v) /,rɪ:kən'sɪdə(r)/  
think again about a previous belief/decision  
• *We reconsidered our holiday plans and decided we couldn't afford to go far.*  
> reconsideration (n) ❖ rivalutare
- 12.56** **reckon** (v) /'rekən/  
believe; suppose • *I reckon it's worth writing to your local councillor about the issue.*  
❖ credere, pensare

### Communicating: verbs

broaden	object	relent
concede	perceive	resolve
contradict	pick up	settle
defend	provoke	submit
generalise	reckon	witness
multitask	reconsider	

### Communicating: nouns

body language	ear buds	printing press
confrontation	gesture	smoke signal
consensus	'get-out' clause	tone
critical thinking	hieroglyphics	understanding
disbelief	insight	
etiquette	posture	

## Grammar Page 141

- 12.57** **body language** (n) /'bɒdi 'læŋgwɪdʒ/  
what you are feeling or thinking shown by the position of your body • *His body language showed he was lying as he kept looking away from the interviewer.* ❖ linguaggio del corpo
- 12.58** **slightly** (adv) /'slaɪtli/  
a little • *She feels slightly better today, but not well enough to go back to school.* > slight (adj) ❖ lievemente
- 12.59** **by far** (expr) /baɪ fɑː/  
to a large extent • *That was by far the best film I've ever seen.* ❖ di gran lunga
- 12.60** **tolerant** (adj) /'tɒlərənt/  
accepting other people's behaviour or views although you disagree with them • *He is tolerant of his children's naughty behaviour as long as they don't get hurt or break anything.*  
> tolerance (n) ❖ tollerante 📖 Opp: intolerant
- 12.61** **talkative** (adj) /'tɔːkətɪv/  
who talks a lot • *Why is Julia so quiet? She's usually much more talkative.* ❖ chiacchierone

## Listening Page 142

- 12.62 polyglot** (n) /'pɒliˌɡlɒt/  
a person who is fluent in several languages  
• *Being a polyglot, Emma is able to speak four foreign languages.* ❖ poliglotta
- 12.63 unconvinced** (adj) /ʌŋkən'vɪnst/  
not convinced about sth • *The teacher looked unconvinced at Harry's excuse.*  
❖ incerto 📖 Opp: convinced
- 12.64 sympathetic** (adj) /sɪmpə'tetɪk/  
understanding towards sb's problems  
• *The manager was sympathetic with Karen when she was late for work.* > sympathise (v), sympathy (n), sympathetically (adv)  
❖ empatico 📖 Opp: unsympathetic
- 12.65 boredom** (n) /'bɔːdəm/  
the state of feeling bored • *He went for a walk to relieve the boredom of studying all day.* > bore (n, v), boring, bored (adj)  
❖ noia

## Speaking Page 143

- 12.66 hesitant** (adj) /'hezɪtənt/  
slow to respond because of being unconfident or unsure • *Hans was hesitant about accepting the job offer because it meant moving house.* > hesitate (v), hesitation (n), hesitantly (adv) ❖ esitante
- 12.67 acquaintance** (n) /ə'kwetɪns/  
sb you know who is not a close friend • *Lisa chatted with some business acquaintances at the conference.* > acquaint (v) ❖ conoscente
- 12.68 intonation** (n) /ɪntə'neɪʃn/  
the way sb's voice rises and falls when they speak • *From her intonation, I thought she was asking me a question.* ❖ intonazione

## Grammar Page 144

- 12.69 invaluable** (adj) /ɪn'væljuəbl/  
very useful or valuable • *Your help on the project has been invaluable. We couldn't have done it without you.* ❖ inestimabile
- 12.70 communicator** (n) /kə'mjuːnɪkətə(r)/  
sb who communicates sth • *Jane should be the speaker for our presentation because she's a good communicator.* > communicate (v), communication (n), communicative (adj)  
❖ comunicatore
- 12.71 bump into** (phr v) /bʌmp 'ɪntə/  
meet sb by chance • *I bumped into an old friend at the bank.* ❖ imbattersi

## Use your English Page 145

- 12.72 deliver (a speech)** (expr) /dɪ'lɪvə(r) (ə spi:tʃ)/  
give (a speech) • *The prime minister will deliver a speech to the press later today.*  
❖ fare (fare un discorso)
- 12.73 make small talk** (expr) /meɪk smɔːl tɔːk/  
have a polite conversation about unimportant things • *After making small talk for half an hour, Albert got into a deeper discussion with his new colleague.* ❖ parlare del più e del meno
- 12.74 conduct (a debate)** (expr) /kən'dʌkt (ə dɪ'beɪt)/  
lead a discussion expressing opposite views on a topic • *The journalist conducted a debate between the leading politicians before the election.* ❖ condurre un dibattito
- 12.75 have a chat** (expr) /hæv ə tʃæt/  
have a short informal conversation • *They were having a chat about the football scores after the semi-finals.* ❖ fare due chiacchiere
- 12.76 talk sth over** (phr v) /tɔːk 'sʌmθɪŋ 'əʊvə(r)/  
discuss • *Let's have a meeting to talk over the plan.* ❖ discutere
- 12.77 talk out of** (phr v) /tɔːk aʊt əv/  
persuade not to do (sth) • *Paul wanted to buy a new car, but I talked him out of it.*  
❖ dissuadere 📖 Opp: talk into
- 12.78 talk back (to)** (phr v) /tɔːk bæk (tə)/  
answer sb rudely • *He shouldn't have talked back to the police officer like that. Now he'll get a worse fine.* ❖ rispondere
- 12.79 talk (sb) round** (phr v) /tɔːk ('sʌmbədi) raʊnd/  
persuade sb to change their opinion • *His parents didn't want him to go to summer camp, but he managed to talk them round.*  
❖ convincere
- 12.80 talk over sb** (phr v) /tɔːk 'əʊvə(r) 'sʌmbədi/  
speak at the same time sb is talking  
• *I couldn't make any sense of the debate because the politicians were talking over each other.* ❖ parlare sopra
- 12.81 talk of** (phr v) /tɔːk əv/  
speak about • *They are talking of building a new shopping centre.* ❖ parlare di
- 12.82 have second thoughts** (expr) /hæv 'sekənd θɔːts/  
change your mind • *He wanted to go to Iceland, but the trip is so expensive that he's having second thoughts.* ❖ ripensarci, avere un ripensamento

- 12.83** **be on sb's side** (expr) /bi: ɒn 'sʌmbədiz saɪd/  
support sb in an argument • *Don't worry! We're all on your side.* ❖ essere dalla parte di
- 12.84** **out of the question** (expr) /aʊt əv ðə 'kwɛstʃən/  
impossible to consider • *Buying your own home is out of the question on such a low salary.* ❖ fuori questione
- 12.85** **be set in your ways** (expr) /bi: set ɪn jɔ: weɪz/  
be unwilling to change your fixed habits or opinions • *Dad is too set in his ways to consider emigrating.* ❖ essere determinati, inflessibili
- 12.86** **twist your arm** (expr) /twɪst jɔ: ɑ:m/  
persuade you to do sth • *I think I can twist mum's arm to let me go to the party.* ❖ forzare la mano
- 12.87** **bear in mind** (expr) /beə(r) ɪn maɪnd/  
don't forget; take into consideration • *Bear in mind that we have a very low budget for this project.* ❖ tenere a mente

### Expressions

be on sb's side	out of the question
bear in mind	set in your ways
call time on	talk (sth) over
carry on a discussion	talk back to
conduct a debate	talk of
deliver a speech	talk over sb
have a chat	talk sb out of sth
have second thoughts	talk sb round
hold a conversation	twist your arm
make small talk	

## Writing Pages 146–147

- 12.88** **offend** (v) /ɒ'fend/  
upset sb • *He offended his audience by joking about their culture.* > offence (n), offensive (adj) ❖ offendere
- 12.89** **insensitivity** (n) /ɪn,sensə'tɪvətɪ/  
lack of awareness for other people's feelings • *Her cruel remarks showed an insensitivity to the needs of the refugees.* > insensitive (adj) ❖ insensibilità ☞ Opp: sensitivity
- 12.90** **over-confident** (adj) /əʊvə'kɒnfɪdənt/  
more confident than you should be • *The over-confident student was surprised when he failed the exam, which he expected to pass without studying.* > over-confidence (adj) ❖ presuntuoso
- 12.91** **arrogant** (adj) /'ærəgənt/  
behaving in a proud, but unpleasant way • *That arrogant woman thinks she's the most talented cook in the contest.* > arrogance (n), arrogantly (adv) ❖ arrogante

- 12.92** **equally** (adv) /'i:kwəli/  
to the same extent; just as importantly • *One benefit of a holiday in your own country is that you don't need a passport. Equally, you don't need to know another language.* > equality (n), equal (adj) ❖ ugualmente
- 12.93** **likewise** (adv) /'laɪkwəɪz/  
in the same way • *Many visitors enjoy holidays in Scotland. Likewise, many Scots prefer going to warmer places.* ❖ analogamente

### Communicating: adjectives and adverbs

arrogant	fundamentally	simultaneously
articulate	hesitant	slightly
comparable	intercultural	sympathetic
conflicting	intermediary	talkative
continually	negatively	tolerant
controversial	non-verbal	unconvinced
dissimilar	over-confident	
empathetic	redundant	

## Video Page 148

- 12.94** **beekeeper** (n) /'bi:ki:pə(r)/  
sb who looks after bees and collects their honey • *Beekeepers have to wear protective clothing while collecting honey.* > beekeeping (n) ❖ apicoltore
- 12.95** **honeycomb** (n) /'hʌnɪkəʊm/  
a structure with hexagonal cells which bees store their eggs and honey in • *The beekeeper lifted the honeycomb gently from the hive and shook off the bees.* ❖ favo
- 12.96** **hive** (n) /haɪv/  
a kind of box made for bees to live in • *Bees were flying around their hives near the mountain path.* ❖ arnia ☞ Also: beehive
- 12.97** **pollinate** (v) /'pɒləneɪt/  
spread pollen onto flowers to make them produce seeds • *Bees and other insects pollinate flowers in spring.* > pollination (n) ❖ impollinare
- 12.98** **colony** (n) /'kɒləni/  
a group of insects living together • *He found a colony of ants nesting in the greenhouse.* > colonise (v) ❖ colonia
- 12.99** **(financial) crisis** (n) /('faɪ'nænʃl) 'kraɪsɪs/  
a time when a country's economy is not healthy • *Many people became homeless during the financial crisis.* ❖ crisi finanziaria
- 12.100** **come across** (phr v) /kʌm ə'krɒs/  
meet or find sb/sth by chance • *We came across a group of hives in the forest and walked past them carefully.* ❖ imbattersi

**12.101 role model** (n) /'rəʊl ,mɒdəl/  
a person that you admire and try to copy  
● *Her dedication to charity work makes her an excellent role model for young people.*  
❖ esempio

**12.102 typical** (adj) /'tɪpɪkəl/  
that is a good example of a particular group or thing ● *For a farmer, a typical working day begins at dawn.* > typically (adv)  
❖ tipico

**12.103 fall ill** (expr) /fɔ:l ɪl/  
become ill ● *Without clean water to drink or wash, many people fell ill and needed medical attention.* ❖ stare male 📎 Also: fall sick

**12.104 raw** (adj) /rɔ:/  
in its natural state before processing  
● *Raw wheat is processed to make flour.*  
❖ crudo

### People

futurist  
acquaintance  
beekeeper

communicator  
polyglot  
role model