

Дистанцирование

e.g. *Will you open the door?*

Cf. *open the door.*

I wondered if you were free at ten o'clock?

Cf. *I wonder if you are free at ten?*

Might – opinion: might it be alright to do this way?

Would – inquiry: You wouldn't be going there by any chance?

Предположение (преуменьшение и преувеличение)

Преуменьшение —

- Явное отрицание
- Скрытое отрицание
- Двойное отрицание

Явное отрицание

e.g. *I'm not pleased* could be treated differently:

I'm simply displeased /shocked/ definitely disgusted etc.)

Скрытое отрицание

Negation as well as negativity could be masked by negative adverbs

(e.g. *hardly, barely, scarcely*), adjectives *few, little* or verbs like *fail, lack* etc.,- thus manifesting itself implicitly.

Двойное отрицание

(e.g. *It's not unfair = It's fair*)

Преувеличение

The emphasizing function is mostly performed by degree adverbs (e.g. *how, so, too, extremely, terribly, awfully, very* etc.) often used in set formulae of politeness to intensify, say, the expression of gratitude or sympathy, refusals or apologies which - reduced to mere *thank you* or *sorry* - would sound rude – *I'm so sorry.*

Some degree adverbs like *just, really, fully, completely* etc. or stylistically coloured verbs (e.g.: *love, hate, die*) or adjectives (e.g.: *super, great, smashing, horrible, awful, stupid* etc.) could be regarded as intensifiers when they lose their direct

Смягчение

1) **mind / view phrases** (e.g. *to my mind; in my opinion /view; from my point of view etc.*);

2) **verbs of thinking** (e.g. *think, believe, consider, suppose*), both in the affirmative and negative forms;

3) **as-phrases** (e.g. *as far as I know; as far as I'm concerned; as I see it; as for me etc.*);

4) **if-phrases** (e.g. *forgive me if I'm wrong; if I'm not mistaken; if you ask me etc.*);

5) **probability words** (e.g. *possibly, by (any) chance, happen*) and **modals** which could also be

Why couldn't it wait till morning?
(pressing offer)

Could it wait till morning?
(open question)

Couldn't it wait till morning?
(persuasive question)

It could wait till morning, couldn't it.

Поддержание разговора

- Вставные конструкции
- Знаки внимания
- Вопросы — реплики

ВСТАВНЫЕ КОНСТРУКЦИИ

Emphatic agreement containing adverbs like *very, certainly, definitely, alright* and sentences with verbs of thinking (*believe, think, suppose, hope, expect*) which often help to soften opinions, as well as phrases of reservation (e.g.: *in most cases, in principle, to a certain extent*).

Softening formulae *I agree but.../only /except; I'm sorry but.../I'm afraid but...* are mostly used for apologies and polite refusals.

ЗНАКИ ВНИМАНИЯ

Attention signals are used to prevent or fill in different possible pauses in a conversation. Those phrases perform the important function of indicating that you follow what's going on, your reaction is adequate and the talk wouldn't end abruptly.

Вопросы — реплики

1) **short questions**, e.g.: *Oh, yes? And so? And (what happened) then? Really?*

2) **question tags** (positive and negative), e.g.: *"He's resolved to marry Ann. "- "Oh, is he?" - "Yes, he thinks he couldn't live without her. " - "Couldn't he?"*

Another variety is the so called *"same-way" tag (only positive)*, e.g.: *"So you think you're the boss, do you?"*

Note that negative tags are used for emphatic agreement, e.g.: *"She was great!" - "Yes, wasn't she?"*

3) **echo questions**, e.g.: *"Now he works as a paleontologist. " - "As a what?"*