

It's controversial!

Answers

Bill

In my opinion, these do more harm than good and are a complete waste of money.

Jenny

I love these and I don't care who knows it. They are a lot more effective than dieting.

Paul

I'm on the fence. It's not clear yet how effective or harmful they are.

Amanda

To be honest, these are not really my thing. It's better to count calories.

Dave

There's nothing wrong with them. If they help girls look better, they are ok in my opinion.

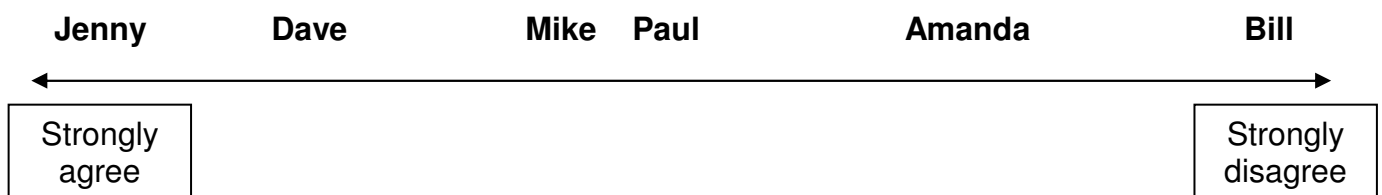
Mike

I'm indifferent. People can do whatever they like with their bodies.

Task 1

Can you guess what they were talking about? → Weight loss pills

Task 2



Controversial Language: Key Phrases

Possible Answers

Task 3

Name	Phrase	Meaning (paraphrase)
Bill	In my opinion...	I think...
Dave	There's nothing wrong with them.	They are ok.
Mike	I'm indifferent.	I don't think they are good or bad.
Paul	I'm on the fence.	I'm not sure yet if they are good or bad. I'm still deciding.
Amanda	...these are not really my thing.	I don't really like them.
Jenny	...and I don't care who knows it.	I am very clear how I feel about them and I'm not afraid to share my opinion.

Different opinions

Answers

Task 4

Speaker	Original sentence	Changed sentence	Stronger or weaker?
Bill	These do more harm than good.	These do much more harm than good.	Stronger
Bill	These are a complete waste of money.	These are a waste of money.	Weaker
Jenny	I love these.	I like these.	Weaker
Jenny	They are a lot more effective than dieting.	They are probably more effective than dieting.	Weaker
Paul	I'm on the fence.	I'm firmly on the fence.	Stronger
Paul	It's not clear yet how effective or harmful they are.	It's not at all clear yet how effective or harmful they are.	Stronger
Amanda	These are not really my thing.	These are not my thing.	Stronger
Amanda	It's better to count calories.	It's probably better to count calories.	Weaker
Dave	There's nothing wrong with them.	In my opinion, there's nothing wrong with them.	Weaker
Dave	If they help girls look better...	If they help girls look fantastic...	Stronger
Mike	I'm indifferent.	I'm pretty indifferent.	Weaker
Mike	People can do whatever they like with their bodies.	People should do whatever they like with their bodies.	Stronger

Note that the strength of an opinion can be changed by doing the following:

- Using an adverb that strengthens / weakens an opinion.
- Changing the modal auxiliary verb.
- Using a dependant clause that introduces an opinion.

Changing opinions

Extension activity - possible Answers

Task 5

Original opinion about "cheating on tests"	Change to be stronger / weaker	Changed opinion
Matt (agrees): It's ok because you can improve your score and appear smarter.	Stronger →	It's definitely ok because you can drastically improve your score and appear a lot smarter.
	Weaker →	I believe that it's ok because you can marginally improve your score and appear a little smarter.
Jane (disagrees): You're not learning if you are cheating. It's better to study.	Stronger →	You're certainly not learning if you are cheating. It's much better to study.
	Weaker →	It isn't likely that you're learning if you are cheating. It's somewhat better to study.
Rebecca (disagrees): Cheating while learning is a poor long-term strategy.	Stronger →	It's a fact that cheating while learning is a very poor long-term strategy.
	Weaker →	In my opinion, cheating while learning may not be such a good long-term strategy.