

SPECULATING

... might / could / could well (be) / must (be)...

They look as if they are

One can't rule out the possibility that ...

DESCRIBING LOCATION

...at the very top / bottom of the picture

in the top/ bottom right- /left- hand corner

on the left-/ right-hand side

in the foreground / background

right next to

just / a little to the right / left of

directly opposite

GIVING YOUR PERSONAL OPINION

In my opinion / view...

Generally speaking, I think...

Personally, I haven't the faintest idea about / whether

To my mind...

I'd just like to say...

As far as I'm concerned...

I'm quite convinced that...

To be quite honest / frank...

If you ask me...

EXPRESSING PERSONAL PREFERENCES

I'd rather (do)-... than...

I could never do / be ... but I'd really enjoy...

There's no comparison between ... and ...

I'd prefer ... to ...

I'd be far happier doing ... than...

DESCRIBING SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

compared to

in contrast to

similar / almost identical to

slightly / completely different from

(not) as (spacious) as

less (modern, luxurious) than

in a similar position to / different position from

GIVING YOURSELF TIME TO THINK

Er... I would say that...

Well, now, let me see...

It's difficult to say exactly but ...

I can't be sure but...

COMMENTING ON SOMETHING YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT

Actually, I don't have any first-hand experience of... but ...
Personally, I've never had anything to do / had very little to do with ... but ...
I haven't a clue!
It's rather difficult to say, but I would imagine...

TALKING ABOUT CERTAINTY, POSSIBILITY AND IMPROBABILITY

I doubt whether...
I'm bound to ...
There's a fairly good chance of ...
There's no doubt in my mind whatsoever that...

INTERPRETING PAST IDEAS

They obviously thought cities would / might
It is reasonable to assume they thought life would / might
Apparently they were convinced teachers would / could
Presumably they imagined transport would / might

POLITELY ASKING SOMEONE TO REPEAT SOMETHING

I'm sorry, I didn't quite catch that...

Sorry, could you say that again please?

Could you repeat that, please?

I'm so sorry, but I'm not sure I understood correctly

SUMMING UP

Basically, it's a question of whether...

In brief...

In a word...

So, to sum up...

In other words...

SAYING YOU ARE INTERESTED

I'm very keen on...

I find ... fascinating.

Actually, this type of ... really interests me.

I'm a bit of a fanatic.

SAYING YOU AREN'T INTERESTED

I find ... rather boring.
...isn't my kind of thing at all.
I can't say I have any great interest in ...

MAKING A CHOICE

I definitely wouldn't select this one because...
Although this one seems... I wouldn't...
Just glancing at them quickly I'd go for...
This one's certainly a possibility because...
This certainly wouldn't be my choice

ARGUING FOR

I can't see anything against...
I'm all for / in favour of ...
I'd certainly give ... my support.
It would make sense to ...
There's a lot to be said for...

ARGUING AGAINST

That's all very well ... but...
It's absolute nonsense to say that...
I'm dead against...

SAYING YOU'D RATHER NOT

Well, I'd rather not, if you don't mind.
I don't really feel it's my kind of thing.
It seems a strange sort of thing to do, if you ask me.
Actually, I don't really think I could find the time

SAYING YOU AREN'T SURE

Hmm... I'd have to think about it.
Well, I'm in two minds about it really.
I can't make up my mind.
I'm not altogether sure I'd enjoy it.