

Discourse Strategies

(Unit 5, page 59)

Complaining about a situation

A. Use these expressions to complain about a situation and respond during a discussion. These expressions will encourage agreement or disagreement and further the discussion. Practice saying each.

<u>Stating a problem</u>	<u>Responding</u>
It's awful how . . .	I really wish they would . . .
I just can't believe how . . .	Why can't / don't they . . .?
It's inexcusable that . . .	I don't see why they can't / don't . . .
I think it's shocking that . . .	The thing they need to do is . . .

B. **Pair Work.** Take turns using the prompts below to practice complaining and giving suggestions. State the problem and respond in each conversation.

Student A begins, Student B responds

A: _____ so many poor homeless people are living in the streets.
B: I agree. _____ build more shelters for the homeless.

A: _____ this city has become so polluted.
B: I totally agree. _____ limit the number of cars and trucks coming into town.

A: _____ discrimination is still so widespread.
B: I couldn't agree more. _____ educate people more about the problem.

A: _____ the trains have gotten so overcrowded.
B: I agree. _____ schedule the trains so they come more often.

A: _____ crime has gotten to be such a big problem.
B: You're absolutely right. _____ get more police officers on the streets.

Student B begins, Student A responds

B: _____ there are so many people working at low-paying jobs.
A: I totally agree. _____ attract more high-tech companies to move to town.

B: _____ the buses are never on time.
A: You're right. _____ plan the bus schedules more carefully.

B: _____ politicians are so corrupt these days.
A: You're right about that. _____ investigate and throw the corrupt ones in jail.

B: _____ housing has become so expensive.
A: Yeah. _____ build more affordable housing.

B: _____ so many people are still getting HIV these days.
A: I totally agree. _____ spend more on HIV education.

C. Now practice complaining and responding as you do the Discussion Builder activities on page 59.