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Real Listening and Speaking/ 2nd Class

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Reacting\_ to \_What \_You\_ Hear

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## **Reacting to What You Hear: Agreeing**

In everyday conversation, the ability to express agreement is essential for fostering connections and understanding among speakers. Phrases like "me too" and "me neither" serve as simple yet powerful tools for indicating shared sentiments in both positive and negative contexts. Similarly, expressions such as "so I" and "neither I" offer nuanced ways to convey agreement, enhancing the richness of dialogue. Understanding how to use these phrases effectively can improve communication skills, allowing individuals to relate to one another more deeply.

### **Understanding "Me Too" and "Me Neither" in Conversational**

#### **English**

In everyday conversation, the ability to express agreement is crucial for effective communication and building rapport. Two common phrases used to indicate agreement are "me too" and "me neither." While they may seem simple, these expressions are fundamental in conveying shared sentiments and emotions in both positive and negative contexts.

#### **The Function of "Me Too"**

The phrase "me too" is employed when agreeing with a positive statement. It serves as a way to indicate that the speaker shares the same feelings, opinions, or experiences as the person they are conversing with. For instance, if one person states, "I enjoy climbing," a response of "me too" signifies that the listener also enjoys climbing. This response not only affirms the speaker's statement but also fosters a sense of connection and friendship. "Me too" can also extend beyond casual conversations to more serious contexts. In discussions about shared experiences, such as challenges or joys, saying "me too" can create solidarity. For example, in discussions about mental health, one might say, "I've felt overwhelmed at times," to which another might respond, "Me too." This exchange can validate feelings and promote a supportive atmosphere. For example: -Ana: How long have you been here in Singapore? -Martin: Nearly three years now. I like it a lot.

-Ana: Me too

## **The Function of "Me Neither"**

Conversely, "me neither" is used to express agreement with negative statements. It indicates that the speaker shares a similar negative sentiment or experience. For instance, if someone says, "I don't like horror movies," and another replies, "Me neither," it confirms their mutual dislike. This expression is particularly valuable when discussing preferences, dislikes, or negative experiences, reinforcing a sense of shared understanding. The use of "me neither" can also contribute to a lighthearted or humorous exchange. For example, if one person jokes, "I can't stand waking up early," and another responds with "Me neither," the conversation can take on a playful tone, highlighting the common struggle many face with early mornings. -A: I don't like chicken -B: Me neither

## **Nuances and Considerations**

While "me too" and "me neither" are straightforward, their usage can sometimes lead to misunderstandings, especially among non-native speakers or in more complex discussions. It's essential to recognize the context in which these phrases are used. For instance, "me too" should not be employed in response to negative statements, as it could lead to confusion. Similarly, "me neither" should only follow negative assertions to maintain clarity in communication. Additionally, cultural differences can influence how these expressions are perceived. In some cultures, direct expressions of agreement may be less common, and alternative phrases may be preferred. Understanding the cultural context can enhance interpersonal communication and prevent potential misinterpretations. In summary, "me too" and "me neither" are essential phrases in conversational English that facilitate the expression of agreement in both positive and negative contexts. They serve not only to affirm shared feelings and experiences but also to create connections between speakers. By using these expressions appropriately, individuals can enhance their conversational skills and foster a sense of community and understanding. As language continues to evolve, mastering these simple yet powerful phrases remains a valuable asset in effective communication.

## **Understanding "So I" and "Neither I" in Conversational English**

In English conversation, expressing agreement is a vital skill that helps to build connections and foster shared understanding. Two phrases that can be particularly useful for this purpose are "so I" and "neither I." While they may not be as commonly recognized as "me too" or "me neither," these expressions play an important role in the discourse, allowing speakers to convey their thoughts in a more nuanced manner.

### **The Function of "So I"**

The phrase "so I" is often used to express agreement with a positive statement or sentiment. It conveys that the speaker not only agrees but also identifies with the sentiment being expressed. For example, if one person says, "I really enjoy traveling," another might respond, "So I!" This response reinforces the idea that the listener shares the same enthusiasm for travel, creating a sense of friendship. Using "so I" can also add a layer of emphasis to the agreement. It suggests that the speaker has a strong connection to the sentiment being discussed. For instance, in a conversation about favorite activities, someone might say, "I love going to concerts," to which another might reply, "So I!" This response not only indicates agreement but also emphasizes the shared passion for live music. For example:

1-I like fish and chips. So do I.

2-I'm going to the cinema tonight. So am I.

### **The Function of "Neither I"**

On the other hand, "neither I" is used to express agreement with a negative statement. It indicates that the speaker shares a similar negative sentiment or experience. For example, if someone states, "I don't like spicy food," and another responds, "Neither I," it confirms their mutual dislike. This expression reinforces the idea that the speaker aligns with the speaker's negative view. "Neither I" can also be used to validate feelings in discussions about shared challenges or dislikes. For example, if someone mentions, "I find it hard to stay interested in winter," a response of "Neither I" acknowledges that the speaker has similar struggles. This shared understanding can create a supportive dialogue, emphasizing that such feelings are common and relevant. For example:

1-I don't usually go to parties. Neither do I.

2-I'd never eaten snails. Neither had I.

### **Nuances and Considerations**

While "so I" and "neither I" are useful expressions, it's essential to use them correctly to avoid confusion. "So I" should only follow positive assertions, while "neither I" should follow negative ones. Misusing these phrases can lead to misunderstandings and disrupt the flow of conversation.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, "so I" and "neither I" are valuable expressions in conversational English that allow speakers to convey agreement in positive and negative contexts. They enhance the richness of dialogue by enabling individuals to express shared feelings more emphatically. Mastering these phrases can improve conversational skills and foster a deeper sense of connection and understanding among speakers. As with any aspect of language, context and clarity are key to effective communication.