

OPINIONS: to convey an **OPINION**, you can resort to (a) phrases (expressions), adjectives or (b) adverbs...

a) **Phrases** such as:

It is only right and proper for parents to further their children's interests and welfare. (*Il est tout-à-fait naturel que les parents servent / favorisent / promeuvent / les intérêts et le bien-être de ...*)

Ø **Public opinion has it that** + clause (= S + VB. conjugué) ≈ It is generally believed that ...

It is generally agreed that + clause (*Il est communément admis que... ≈ On s'accorde généralement à penser...*)

It is argued that + clause...

As Ø **is argued in** the leader from the *Guardian*, + clause / **As** Ø **is claimed by** the journalist, + clause.

→ *Comme il est soutenu / affirmé / dans l'éditorial du Guardian / par le journaliste, ...*

To my mind, ... (*A mon avis / A mon sens...*). **To** them, the cost of living is (far) too high.

According to him / her / them, ... (☞ « According to... » = expression à ne PAS employer à la 1ère pers., en général.)

The odds are that + clause... (*Il y a de fortes chances pour que... / Il y a fort à parier que...*)

I believe, **at the bottom of my heart**, that + clause → *Je crois, au fond de moi-même, que...*

The leader **oversteps the line** → *Cet éditorialiste dépasse la mesure.*

The trouble with D. Cameron's scheme is that + clause. **The only snag is that** / **The trouble is that** / + clause.

There is a flip side to this policy... (*revers de la médaille / face cachée...*) / **The flip side of** ... is ... / Unemployment is the other side of the coin.

You can use all the verbs conveying an opinion or a feeling:

I **believe** / **think** / that...; I **have the feeling that** ..., I **am under the impression that** ...; to **endorse** sb.'s views. (*adhérer à ...*); such **views** are not **embraced** by ...; to **share** sb.'s opinions / fears ..., insofar as / in that / + clause. (*partager*), and so on.

Such **views are not embraced** by Republicans **insofar as / in that** / + clause (*dans la mesure où / en ce sens que...*).

Think of equally useful result-oriented verb patterns:

The paper **shames** us / them / British political leaders / **into (re)acting** ... (*faire honte à qqn. pour qu'il (ré)agisse*)

The car dealer **coaxed** us **into** buying the most expensive vehicle! → *C'est par la flatterie que ce concessionnaire automobile nous a amenés [nous amena] à acheter...*

The author is actually trying to **talk / argue** / his readers **into** believing that + clause.

→ *L'auteur cherche, en réalité / en fait / à convaincre son lectorat de croire que ... /*

C'est avec force arguments que l'auteur essaie de persuader ses lecteurs de ...

≠ **To talk / argue** / someone **out of doing** sth. (*Dissuader qqn. de faire... / Convaincre qqn. de ne pas faire...*).

Examples of **adjectives** conveying (personal) bias:

A **risk-averse** regime is likely to **implement the precautionary principle**. Conversely, a **risk-taking** nation is **bound to** (1) **object to it**. OR (2) **overlook / brush aside / ignore** / + possible health hazards

(☞ to ignore → *ne pas tenir compte de...*; ☞ **hazards** ≈ risks)...

Adjectives: (**be**) **right** ≠ **wrong** + **about sth.** → **avoir** raison ≠ tort...

She **is right in** thinking that the current policy is counterproductive.

It would **be wrong to** accuse all employers of disregarding labour laws.

To **embrace a biased approach to** an issue (*une façon partielle d'aborder un problème / aborder une question de manière...*).

≠ An **unbiased approach** (*impartiale / sans parti pris*). ☞ N = **bias**.

This leader is **biased in favour of** sb. / sth. ≠ **against** sb. / sth.

To **be prejudiced against** sb. / sth. (*avoir des préjugés contre... / des idées préconçues sur...*)

b) Such **adverbs** as:

Undeniably, ... / **Unquestionably**, ... (≈ **Needless to say**, ...) + clause.

Quite **understandably**, + clause.

Oddly enough, ... / **Surprisingly**, ... (*Étonnamment*, ... / *Chose étonnante*, ...) / **Unsurprisingly**, ... / + clause.

Expectedly, ... ≠ **Unexpectedly**, ... (*De manière inattendue / ≈ contre toute attente* → **against all the odds**, ...)

Paradoxically, ... (≈ *Chose paradoxale*, ...)

Conversely, ... (*Inversement / Réciproquement*)

(*At the end of a clause*) ..., **instead**. (*au lieu de cela / à la place*)

To **QUALIFY** a statement (*nuancer*) and thus ☞ **avoid** untrue or unwelcome sweeping **generalisations**:

a) **Quantifiers**:

Quite a few people, who frowned on [objected to] the current austerity measures, took to the streets.

Most men turned up (*apparaître / se présenter*), whereas **very few** women did.

Too few people / **Too few** citizens / attended the meeting (≠ **too many** members skipped or missed it).

(☞ "few", "many" + a countable noun in the plural.)

Actually, (far) **too little** money is spent on education in inner-city districts.

(☞ "little", "much" + Uncountable N. = SING.)

b) Vocabulary: **adverbs or adverbial phrases** (*locutions adverbiales*), **adjectives**, **verbs**...

By and large, the high-tech sector has weathered today's economic downturn. (*De manière générale*, ... / *Dans l'ensemble*, ...). / The high-tech sector **seems to** have ridden out the current slump.

As a rule, + clause (*En règle générale*, ...)

More often than not, employers **resort to** unpaid interns. (*Il n'est pas rare que les employeurs aient recours aux stagiaires non rémunérés...*)

Such is often the case, but **there is no hard and fast rule** (*Tel est souvent le cas mais il n'y a pas de règle absolue*)

That **mostly** **applies to** / **holds true for** / Silicon Fen. **Mostly** ≈ **mainly**.

Almost everybody turned up at the meeting (staged by ...) → *Presque tout le monde est apparu / s'est présenté à...*

They **partly** agree on the idea floated by the mayoress. (≠ **thoroughly**).

The **overall** situation **is shaping up** (*prendre (une bonne) tournure / pour un projet → bien fonctionner ...*).

Economic circumstances **are looking up** [≈ are improving], / Prospects **are brightening up**, / **at least** in the high-tech sector ... (du moins).

As he points out subtly (Comme il le fait remarquer subtilement) ≠ **grossly** (grossièrement); **bluntly** (sans ménagement / sans mâcher ses mots), + clause.

Other adverbs: **especially** / **specifically** / **generally** ...

With the benefit [wisdom] of hindsight, ... (Avec le recul / après coup, ...)

They **tend to further** their customers' **interests** rather than yours. (Ils ont tendance à promouvoir les intérêts des clients plutôt que les vôtres.)

Programmes designed to help the needy take up a **substantial** amount of local resources.

The **bulk** of our budget is **earmarked for** Ø research. (La majeure ou plus grosse partie de ... est affectée à ...).

As the proverb goes, "every cloud has a silver lining" (à quelque chose malheur est bon.)

The bottom line is ... → Le fait est que... / Le résultat final, c'est que...

After weighing up the pros and cons (of sth.), one can truly assert that... → Après avoir pesé le pour et le contre, ...

To **make the case for** sth. ≠ To **make the case against** sth.

CRITICISM, DISAPPROVAL

Such a measure is likely to **make a dent in** our purchasing power (entamer, faire un trou dans...).

Most citizens **frown on** / **object to** / **disapprove of** / this batch of measures believed to **benefit** employers more than employees.

I am afraid the author does not **have a good grip of** the subject. → Je crains que l'auteur ne maîtrise pas ce sujet.

Those scientists thought, **and wrongly so**, that they had **found a chink in** the armour of Einstein's relativity → trouver un point faible ou sensible.

And now they **have got egg on their face**. → Se couvrir de ridicule / avoir l'air ridicule.

What **flies in the face of** their theory is ... → contrecarrer / défier...

That is where the shoe pinches. → C'est là que la bât blesse.

They **resent** + N: government interference. I + **gerund**: my doing this. → Ils n'apprécient pas + N / pas que + S + VB. conjugué. / Ils nous en veulent pour ...

To some people, businesspeople **are to blame for** (a) today's **sluggish** growth / (b) the **current economic downturn**. → Aux yeux de certains, les hommes d'affaires sont responsables (a) de la croissance lente / molle / au ralenti / (b) du ralentissement actuel de l'économie...

Not every scourge can **be blamed on** them, though. (A scourge → un fléau.)

The P.M. **is accused of** doing sth.

Much criticism was levelled at him. (☛ A critic is a person !)

To **criticise** sb. or sth. **harshly**. To **open fire on** sb. / sth.

It is a **damning indictment** of our government / of A's foreign policy.... (C'est une mise en cause accablante de...)

The leader of this (political) party accused the press of **demonising** him (Le dirigeant...a accusé...de le diaboliser).

He **has been vilified**. To **vilify** sb. or sth. (diffamer, calomnier) ≈ to **slander**.

There is no point in whining (about it) → Cela ne sert à rien de / Ce n'est pas la peine de / geindre ou pleurnicher...

The trouble with unpaid internship **is that** drawbacks seem to **outweigh** benefits. → ... les inconvénients semblent l'emporter sur les avantages.

On the downside, devolution of all powers to local authorities may

spell disaster / **spell trouble** (signifier / être synonyme d'ennuis / ...). / **leave the door wide open for** abuses.

There is a **downside to** everything (Toute médaille a son revers) ≈ There is a **flipside to** this measure → Comme toute médaille, cette mesure comporte son revers.

That plan would be a severe **setback for** us if it failed. → Ce projet constituerait un grave revers / échec / pour nous s'il échouait. To **suffer a setback in** one's plan (to do sth.) → Voir son projet... compromis.

Other useful **nouns**: a **blessing** (une bénédiction; un don du ciel), a **boon** (une aubaine) ≠ a **scourge** (fléau), **the bane of** local government (le fléau / la bête noire / des collectivités locales), a **curse** (une malédiction).

This policy is a **mixed blessing** → Cette politique a du bon et du mauvais.

As he **put it bluntly**, ... / To be quite **blunt about it**, + clause... → Comme il le formule franchement / sans détour ; s'exprimer / dire q.chs. / sans mâcher ses mots.

Some scientists dismiss GMOs as **harmful to** health ≠ **beneficial to** farmers. VERBS: to **harm** sb. / sth. ≠ to **benefit** sb. / sth.

Actually, John Smith **is barking up the wrong tree!** → En vérité, J. Smith fait fausse route!

☞ Even more subtle, you can also use **derogatory terms** to criticise sth. or sb.: for example, genetic **tinkering** (bricolage), **tampering with** the sanctity of life, a **botched** experiment (bâclé/e), to behave **recklessly** / **foolishly**...

This politician's **flip-flopping** (fait de changer sans cesse d'avis / propension à retourner sa veste...) and **prevarication** (tergiversations) **could not but make a dent in** his credibility (... ne firent qu'entamer sa crédibilité).