

**A FEW EXAMPLES OF EXPLETIVE PHRASES IN ENGLISH,  
FOR USE IN FILLING GAPS AND TO EVEN-OUT THE  
INTERPRETER'S DELIVERY, NOTABLY IN RELAY MODE**

"... ladies and gentlemen..."

"...distinguished delegates..."

"...my dear friends/colleagues..."

"...and (of course) the assembly will appreciate that..."

"...it is probably fair to say that..."

"...as I have said..."

"...as I was saying...."

"...why do I maintain this? Let me explain..."

"...my reasoning (here) is as follows..."

"...how can I (best) put this?:..."

"...and here we come to the heart of the matter/the nub of the problem..."

"...there, indeed, is the rub..."

"...and now I would like to turn to another matter..."

"...to reiterate my earlier comments..."

"...but I am unsure in what terms to put/couch my argument..."

"...I dare say..."

"...this is, of course; self-evident, but...."

"...I make so bold as to say..."

"...the experts present will no doubt correct me if I err..."

"...I am (of course) far from being an expert in such matters, but..."

"...it will come as no surprise to you to learn that...."

"...you are of course aware that..."

"...and the point at issue can be summarised as follows..."

"...I think it is fair to say that..."

"...at this juncture..."

"...at this point in the proceedings..."

"...so here we have it..."

"...so to speak..."

"...as it were..."

"...I think I might say without fear of contradiction....."

"...if my memory serves me aright..."

"...is a topic the importance of which it would be difficult to overestimate."\*\*

"...is a most thorny topic."\*\*

"...is a matter/topic/problem which it would be unwise to neglect."\*\*

"...is something about which I/we/my country/my capital/my delegation feels very strongly."\*\*

"This position has its merits (of course), but I feel (on the contrary) that....."##

"This is (self-evidently) a valid stance, but my own position is as follows...."##

"This is a well-reasoned position, but it is (more than) possible to maintain the contrary:..." ##

Try repeating a word or phrase; adding 'then', 'indeed', therefore etc.....

## = use if you have actually got it wrong, and require an elegant U-turn!

\*\* = use to finish sentences when the speaker fails to do so, or when you have missed the end of a sentence

The above are simply examples, and you can create thousands more in the same vein. The idea is to use these short phrases singly or in a series, in modular fashion, and to be able to return immediately to the speaker/relay provider as soon as further source material for interpretation is available.

The important thing is for these expletive phrases to be learned, practised and then delivered without requiring mental effort, given that the goal is definitely not to add a further intellectual burden which might militate against quality interpretation! It is generally accepted that silences of 2-3 seconds are acceptable in the booth, so long as the interpreter's voice and delivery are correctly pitched so as to instill confidence in his/her audience.

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