

FUNCTIONAL LANGUAGE

(from Macmillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learners)

Ways of giving advice

You should/You ought to/If I were you/Why don't you/It's a good idea to	used when giving friendly advice
You'd better	used when giving stronger advice
Take it from me	used when giving advice that is based on your own experience
If you want my advice	used when offering advice to someone, even though they may not want to hear what you are telling them
You would be well advised	used when giving advice in more formal and serious contexts

Examples:

*I think **you ought to** see the doctor about that lump.*

***If I were you** I'd stick with your job until something better comes along.*

***Why don't you** just tell her the truth? ♦ **It's a good idea to** check the weather forecast before you leave.*

***You'd better** hear her side of the story before you decide.*

***You'd better not** drive if you're feeling tired.*

***Take it from me**, it's not worth using one of those cheap car-hire companies.*

***If you want my advice**, you should stay away from men like that.*

You would be well advised to consult a lawyer before committing yourself.

Ways of apologizing

Sorry/I'm sorry	the usual way of apologizing to someone you know well
I do apologize for...	a more polite and formal way of apologizing, used especially when you feel responsible for something that someone else has done
Excuse me	used when apologizing for something you did accidentally
I beg your pardon	a more formal way of apologizing for something you did accidentally
I/We owe you an apology	used when you realize you have treated someone badly, for example by blaming them for something that is not their fault
Please accept my/our apologies	used when making a written or formal apology
I/We regret...	used when making an apology in an official announcement

Examples:

I'm sorry I'm late, Amy. I missed the train. ♦ I'm sorry, I didn't quite hear what she said.

I do apologize for Julie's behaviour. She's normally so reliable.

Oh, excuse me, I didn't see you standing there.

I beg your pardon, I didn't mean to interrupt.

We've discovered who the thief was, and it seems we owe you an apology.

We accept that this was the company's fault and ask you to accept our sincere apologies.

My apologies if I have offended you in any way.

We regret to announce that tonight's performance of 'La Traviata' has been cancelled.

Ways of accepting an apology

That's quite all right/There's no need to apologize	used when telling someone that you do not mind what they have done
No problem	used when telling someone you know well that you do not mind what they have done

Examples:

'I'm sorry I'm late.' 'That's quite all right, I've only been waiting for a minute.' ♦ There's no need to apologize, it was an easy mistake to make.

'I'm sorry I can't help you.' 'No problem, I'll ask Rory.'

Ways of expressing criticism

I'm bound to say/I have to say	used when you are going to say something that may annoy or upset someone, especially because it expresses criticism
With respect/With all due respect	used when you are going to disagree with someone or criticize someone, in order to sound more polite
To say the least/To put it mildly	used for suggesting that something is worse or more extreme than you are saying
Shall we say?	used in the middle of a sentence for making a statement or criticism seem less severe or offensive
Don't get me wrong	used when you want to make sure that someone understands your comments correctly, especially when you are criticizing them
How shall I put it?/Let me put it this way	used when you are going to say something that is honest but may sound rude or unkind
Without wishing to do something	used when you are going to say something that someone may not like
To be fair/In all fairness/To give someone their due	used for making your criticism of someone or something seem less strong by mentioning something good about them

Examples:

***I'm bound to say/I have to say**, I found his performance pretty disappointing.*

***With all due respect**, Mr Davies, I do think you're being a little unreasonable.*

*I think his behaviour in the meeting was immature, **to put it mildly**.*

*The training programme seems, **shall we say**, a little dull.*

***Don't get me wrong**, I do like Christine, I just don't think she's right for you.*

*Her boyfriend is a bit, **how shall I put it**, difficult to get along with. ♦ **Let me put it this way**, I wouldn't miss her if she left.*

***Without wishing to** hurt your feelings, I think you need to lose a little weight.*

*Vicki's schoolwork has been poor this term, though, **to be fair**, her maths has improved. ♦ She never calls me, though **to give her her due**, she always remembers my birthday.*

Ways of expressing disagreement

I'm sorry, but.../Excuse me, but.../Pardon me, but...	used when politely telling someone that you do not agree with them
Absolutely not/Of course not...	used for saying that you completely disagree with what someone has said
I don't know/ I take your point/That's true, but...	used as polite ways of saying that you do not really agree with someone
Speak for yourself...	an informal and sometimes impolite way of telling someone that your opinion is very different to theirs
Don't make me laugh/Are you kidding?/You must be joking...	informal ways of telling someone you completely disagree with them, and you think that what they have said is crazy

Examples:

Sorry/Excuse me/Pardon me, but it was never proved that he stole that car.

'I think I should accept the blame for the accident.' **'Absolutely not!/Of course not!/Nothing of the kind! There's no way it was your fault.'**

'Peter is really unfriendly sometimes.' **'I don't know, he's always been very kind to me.'**

'These taxes on petrol are far too high.' **'Well yes, I take your point. But maybe that'll encourage people to use their cars less.'**

'She's a difficult person to work with.' **'That's true, but she's a really good designer.'**

'We don't mind walking from here.' **'Speak for yourself! My feet are killing me!'**

'I really think the Beatles are overrated.' **'Are you kidding?/Don't make me laugh! They're better than any of the modern bands.'**

Ways of expressing agreement

That's right/You're right/I know	used when agreeing with someone
Exactly/Absolutely/I couldn't agree more	used for saying that you completely agree with someone
You can say that again/You're telling me	a more informal way of saying that you completely agree with someone
Why not?	used when agreeing with a suggestion someone has made
I suppose so/I guess so	used when you agree that someone is right, but you are not happy with the situation

Examples:

*'It's supposed to be a very good school.' **'That's right.** They get great results.'* ♦ *'He's really boring, isn't he?' 'Oh, **I know,** he never stops talking about himself.'*

*'When we were young, people didn't get into debt.' **'Exactly.** You just bought what you could afford.'* ♦ *'I think Jacob is the best person for the job.' **'Absolutely.** I'll be amazed if he doesn't get it.'* ♦ *'We had to wait three months to get a phone line – it's ridiculous.' **'I couldn't agree more.'***

*'It's so cold outside!' **'You can say that again!'*** ♦ *'The buses are so unreliable!' **'You're telling me!** I've been waiting here for half an hour.'*

*'Let's go to the cinema tonight.' **'Why not?** We haven't been for ages.'*

*'We'll have to get some new tyres.' **'I suppose so/I guess so.** But it will be expensive.'*

Ways of saying goodbye

Bye	the most common way of saying goodbye to a friend or someone you know well
Cheerio/Cheers	an informal way of saying goodbye
See you (later)/Catch you later	an informal way of saying goodbye to someone when you expect to see them again soon
So long/See you around/(I'll) be seeing you	used for saying goodbye to someone you know well, when you are not sure when you will see them again
Good night/Night	used for saying goodbye when you leave someone at night or before they go to bed
Take care/Mind how you go	used when you say goodbye to someone you know well when they are leaving, in order to show that you care about them
Safe journey	used when you say goodbye to someone you know well when they are leaving to go on a journey
Nice to meet you	used for saying goodbye to someone when you have just met them for the first time

Examples:

Bye/Cheerio, thanks for coming!

I'd better go now. I have to pick the children up from school. **See you later!**

So long, it was really nice bumping into you.

Good night. Thanks for a great party!

Mind how you go. Give my regards to your parents.

Safe journey! Give us a ring when you get home.

Nice to meet you, Mr Mitchell. Have a good trip back to the States.

Ways of saying hello

Hi/Hiya	an informal way of saying hello
All right?	an informal way of saying hello to someone and asking if they are well
Pleased to meet you/Nice to meet you	the usual polite way of greeting someone when you meet them for the first time
How do you do?	used in formal situations as a polite way of greeting someone when you meet them for the first time
Good morning/afternoon/evening	used for saying hello to someone in the morning/afternoon/evening. Used especially when addressing an audience
Morning/Afternoon/Evening	a more informal way of saying hello to someone in the morning/afternoon/evening
Nice to see you	used for saying hello to someone you already know
Long time no see	used when you meet a close friend that you have not seen for a long time

Examples:

Hi/Hiya Katy! What a lovely day!

'All right, mate?' 'All right. And you?'

'I'd like you to meet my uncle John.' **'Pleased to meet you.** I've heard a lot about you.' ♦ **Nice to meet you** at last, Mr Mitchell.

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I'd like to welcome you on behalf of all of us. ♦ **Good evening** and welcome to the show.

Morning Samantha. Did you have a good journey?

Dave! **Nice to see you!** Why didn't you tell me you were coming?

Well, this is a surprise! **Long time no see!** Come in.

Ways of saying I don't know

Dunno	used informally, in spoken language
I have no idea/I haven't a clue/I haven't the faintest idea	used when you have no information and you are unable to guess the answer to a question
How should I know?/Don't ask me/Search me	used when you do not know something and you feel annoyed that someone is asking you about it
It beats me	used for saying that you do not know or understand something
Who knows?/It's anyone's guess	used for saying that you don't know something because it is impossible for anyone to know it
Your guess is as good as mine	used for saying that you know as little about something as the person who asked you about it
Not as far as I know	used for saying that something may be true, but you do not have enough information to know whether it is or not

Examples:

'Are you coming out later?' **'Dunno.** Depends on the weather.'

'What time does the film start?' **'I have no idea.** Why don't you call the cinema?' ♦ 'I don't suppose you know where Braganza Street is?' **'I haven't a clue.** Sorry.' ♦ 'Could somebody please explain how this car ended up in my driveway?' **'I haven't the faintest idea.'**

'Who left this rubbish all over the table?' **'How should I know?** I've only just come home.' ♦ 'Why didn't he call me himself?' **'Don't ask me.** I'm only the messenger.' ♦ 'Why didn't he say he wasn't coming?' **'Search me.** He never tells me anything.'

'Why did he do such a stupid thing?' **'It beats me.'**

'When will this situation ever be resolved?' **'Who knows?** It's been going on for so long now.' ♦ How the situation will develop from here **is anyone's guess.**

'Do you think the store will be open on Sunday?' **'Your guess is as good as mine.'**

'Has James left the company? I haven't seen him for ages.' **'Not as far as I know,** but I haven't seen him recently either.'

Ways of saying no

I'm afraid not	a polite way of saying no
Not really	used when saying no without being definite
I don't think so/Not as far as I know	used when you think that you know something but are not completely sure
Certainly not/Definitely not	used for emphasizing that your answer to a question or request is definitely no
Of course not	used to say no when you think an idea is stupid or insulting
I couldn't/No thanks	used when politely saying no to something that someone has offered you
Not likely/No way	an informal and very definite way of saying no
You must be joking!	an informal way of saying no that shows that you think somebody's suggestion or request is crazy

Examples:

'Are you coming tonight?' **'I'm afraid not, I have to work.'**

'Is there something special you'd like to do for your birthday?' **'Not really, I'd be happy to stay at home.'**

'Has Mr Smith checked out of his hotel yet?' **'Not as far as I know, no.'**

'Can I stay up to watch the film?' **'Certainly not, it's time you went to bed!'**

'You didn't tell Paul what I said, did you?' **'Of course not, you're my friend!'**

'Would you like some cake?' **'No thanks/I couldn't, I've just had a big lunch.'**

'Are you going to apologize to them?' **'No way! It's all their fault!'**

'Are you coming up the mountain with us, then?' **'You must be joking! I'm not going out in this weather.'**

Ways of saying yes

Yep/Yeah	an informal way of saying 'yes'
Definitely	a way of saying 'yes' with more emphasis
That's right	used instead of 'yes' as an answer to a question or statement
Of course/Sure	used for saying 'yes' very definitely, in answer to a question or request
You bet	used for saying 'yes' in an enthusiastic way
I guess so	used for saying 'yes' when in fact you do not feel very positive or enthusiastic
I'm afraid so	used for saying 'yes' when you think the person asking the question is hoping you will say 'no'

Examples:

'Did you enjoy the film?' 'Yeah, it was really good.'

'Are you coming to my party?' 'Definitely. I wouldn't miss it for anything.'

'So you haven't seen your father since this morning?' 'That's right.'

'Will you take a message if anyone calls while I'm out?' 'Of course/Sure.'

'Are you looking forward to your trip to Scotland?' 'You bet!'

'Will you be working late again tonight?' 'I guess so.'

'Is it true that John and Sarah have split up?' 'I'm afraid so.'

Ways of giving your opinion

I think	the most usual and general way of giving your opinion
I reckon	a more informal way of giving your opinion
In my opinion/In my view	a more formal way of giving your opinion
It seems to me/All things considered	used for giving your opinion when you have thought carefully about a situation
If you ask me	used for giving an often critical opinion
To tell you the truth/To be honest/frank	a way of giving your opinion when you know that that people may not like what you say
Personally	used for emphasizing that you are giving your own opinion
To my mind/As far as I'm concerned	used for giving your own opinion, when you realize that other people may not agree with you

Examples:

***I think** if you work hard you'll do very well in the exam.*

*It'll be cheaper to take the plane, **I reckon**.*

***In my view**, it was a big mistake not to try to buy the company last year.*

***It seems to me** that John's plans for the website are very convincing. ♦ **All things considered**, I think we were wise to cancel our flights.*

***If you ask me**, both Paul and Simon are being extremely immature.*

***To be honest/To tell you the truth/To be frank**, I thought the show was pretty awful.*

***Personally**, I think you should apologize to your brother.*

***To my mind**, the way she behaved was inconsiderate. ♦ **As far as I'm concerned**, tennis is a much more interesting sport than football.*

Ways of asking and giving permission

Can I...?	the most usual and general way of asking permission
May I...?	a more formal and polite way of asking permission
Would it be all right if/Is it all right if/Do you mind if...	used when asking permission, for showing you do not want to interrupt or annoy someone
You can	the most usual and general way of giving permission
By all means/Of course/Certainly	a more formal and polite way of giving permission
I don't see why not	used when you cannot see any reason to prevent someone from doing something
Go ahead/Feel free	used informally for making someone feel comfortable about doing something
Help yourself	used informally for giving someone permission to have or use something, especially food or drink
If you (really) must	used for giving someone permission to do something, even though you do not really want them to do it

Examples:

***Can I** take your car to work tomorrow?*

***May I** use the phone?*

***Would it be all right if** I turned the radio off? ♦ **Do you mind if** I open a window?*

***You can** take the big bag as well if you like.*

*'Could I stay the night at Ann's?' 'I **don't see why not**, so long as you're home before lunch tomorrow.'*

*'Do you mind if I bring my bike inside?' 'Of course you can/**By all means**, there's plenty of space.'*

*'Is it all right if I take a bath?' 'Sure, **go ahead/feel free**. I'll get you a towel.'*

'Is there any more bread?' 'Help yourself. You know where it is.'

'Is it all right if I invite Bob to the party?' 'If you must, but you know I don't like him.'

Ways of persuading someone to do/not do something

It might be a good idea if/It might be better if	a polite way of persuading someone
Why don't you think about/Have you ever thought about	a polite and indirect way of persuading someone
Please	an informal way of persuading someone when you really want them to do something
Go on/Go for it	an informal way of persuading someone to make an effort to achieve something
I'd/We'd really like you to	a strong but polite way of persuading someone
I think you should	a strong and direct way of persuading someone
I'd prefer it if you didn't	a polite but forceful way of persuading someone not to do something
I/We would appreciate it if	a polite way of persuading someone to do or not do something, usually when you are slightly annoyed with them

Examples:

You know, **it might be better if** you let Maggie drive from now on. You're looking tired.

Why don't you think about taking three weeks' holiday instead of two? It might do you good.

Oh, go on, **please** come to the party! I don't want to go without you.

Go on, try again. You nearly did it that time. ♦ Look, it's a great opportunity and you may not get another chance – **go for it!**

We'd really like you to come with us to France. ♦ **I think you should** forget about the whole thing and just get on with doing your job.

I'd really prefer it if you didn't put your feet on the sofa.

I would appreciate it if you would stop putting your rubbish in our bin.

Ways of praising someone

Well done	the most common way of praising someone when they have done something well
Congratulations	used for praising someone who has achieved something important, such as passing a major exam
Good for you	an informal way of telling someone that you approve of what they have done
Way to go/Good job	a more informal way of telling someone that they have done something well
Good thinking/That's an idea/You're a genius	used for praising someone when you think that their idea or suggestion is good
Someone is to be congratulated	a formal way of saying that someone has done well
Let's hear it for.../Hats off to...	used for saying that you think someone deserves a lot of praise

Examples:

'I passed all my exams!' 'Well done!/Congratulations! Let's go out and celebrate.'

'I told him I would only do it if he paid me more.' 'Good for you. He needed to be told.'

'We should finish just ahead of schedule.' 'Good job, Karl! That's fantastic news!'

Hannah, you're a genius! I never would have thought of that myself. ♦ Good thinking! That's a much better way of doing it.

The lead actor is to be congratulated on his excellent performance in a difficult role.

Hats off to Derrick and his team! They finished the project in record time. ♦ Let's hear it for everyone who took part in the campaign.

Ways of suggesting something

How about...?/What about...?	an informal way of suggesting something
What if I...?	an informal way of suggesting something that you can do to help someone
Let's...	an informal way of suggesting to the people you are with something that you could all do together
Why don't I/you/we/they...?	a way of suggesting something when you are introducing a new idea that other people have not thought of
What would you say to...?/What do you say I/we...?	a way of asking whether someone would accept a suggestion
Perhaps we/you/they could...	a way of suggesting something, especially when you are not completely sure if it is a good idea
We/You could always...	a way of suggesting something when most other possibilities have already been considered
May/Can I suggest...?	a polite and formal way of suggesting something
May/Can/Could I make a suggestion?	a way of suggesting something, often used when interrupting people who are already discussing what to do
I suggest...	a way of suggesting something in a slightly annoyed way, especially when you think someone has been silly or has done something wrong

Examples:

How about/What about going out to dinner tonight?

What if I babysat for you tonight? Then you could both go to the party.

I know, **let's** go swimming!

Why don't you try phoning their office number instead?

What would you say to a weekend by the seaside? ♦ **What do you say we** have dinner at that restaurant by the beach?

Perhaps we could ask Jerry's father if he has a tent he could lend us?

I suppose **we could always** go to the cinema instead.

May I suggest that we postpone discussing this until the next meeting?

Could I make a suggestion? Why don't we put all the guests on the first floor and then everyone will be happy?

In future, **I suggest** you ask your father's permission before you borrow his car.

Ways of indicating that you feel sure about something

I'm sure	the most usual way of saying that you are sure about something
I'm positive/I'm certain/I know for a fact (that)	a stronger, more emphatic way of expressing certainty
I know	used for expressing certainty that something will happen, based on a strong feeling rather than on facts
I bet	used informally to show that you are confident about the truth of what you are saying
No doubt	a more formal way of expressing certainty about what someone is thinking or feeling, often used by people in authority
I am satisfied	a way of expressing certainty about the facts of a situation, often used in official situations

Examples:

***I'm sure** she won't forget – she's very reliable.*

***I'm positive** I had the keys with me when I left. ♦ **We're certain** we made the right decision. ♦ **I know for a fact that** he lied to me about the party.*

*You're going to enjoy the show – I just **know** you are.*

***I bet** they've gone without us! ♦ **I bet** he's not as good a cook as you.*

*You will **no doubt** be relieved to hear that the management has agreed to your request.*

*Having examined the evidence, **we are satisfied** that safety regulations were not broken.*

Ways of indicating that you are not sure about something

I think	used when you are not completely certain about something
Maybe	an informal way of saying that you are not certain about something
Perhaps	a more formal way of saying that you are not certain about something
As far as I know/To the best of my knowledge	used for saying what you think is true, though you cannot be certain because you do not know all of the facts
There's no telling/Who's to say?/You never can tell	used for saying that it is impossible for anyone to be certain about something

Examples:

*I **think** that's what he said, but I can't be certain. It was very noisy.*

'Do you think it will rain?' 'Maybe. We usually get lots of rain at this time of year.'

*I wondered if **perhaps** he'd forgotten to confirm the booking.*

***As far as I know**, he's coming. But I haven't spoken to him for weeks.*

***There's no telling** what she will do next. She's so unpredictable.*

Ways of expressing surprise

Goodness!/Good heavens!/(Oh) my God	used for showing that you are surprised
Good grief!	used for showing that you are surprised, especially when you are not pleased
Never/Well I never/Well, well/Really?	an informal way of saying that what someone has just said is very surprising
No way!/You're joking!/You're kidding!	used for emphasizing that what someone has just said is so surprising that you can't believe it
I can't/don't believe it!	used for emphasizing that something that has just happened is so surprising that you can't believe it
Believe it or not/Oddly enough/Funnily enough	used for emphasizing that what you are about to tell someone is surprising but true
Who would have thought ...?	used for saying that something is so surprising that no one could have expected it

Examples:

Good heavens! *Is that the time already? I promised to be home by five! ♦ 'We're getting married.'* **'Oh my God,** *I can't believe it!*

Good grief! *Twenty pounds for a taxi to the city centre? That's outrageous!*

'Jo's head of department now.' **'Really?** *She only joined the company a year ago.'*

'My dad's bought two tickets for the World Cup.' **'No way!** *That's fantastic!*

I don't believe it! *I passed all my exams!*

Believe it or not, *this shabby old desk is a collector's item. ♦ Oddly enough,* *I was just about to call you when the phone rang.*

Who would have thought *he'd get married again at 80?*

Ways of saying thank you

Thanks (a lot/very much)	the most usual way of saying thank you
That's very kind of you	a formal way of saying thank you, often used when refusing an invitation
Much obliged	a formal way of thanking someone for something they have done for you
You've saved my life/I owe you one	an informal way of saying thank you, used when someone has helped you in a difficult situation
Cheers	a more informal way of saying thank you
Thanks a bunch	used ironically, when someone has not helped you at all
You're too kind	used for saying thank you in a way that sounds polite but is not completely sincere
You shouldn't have	used when someone gives you a present
I'd like to thank...	used when making a formal speech
Many thanks	a formal way of saying thank you, used in letters and emails

Examples:

***Thanks a lot** for all your help.*

***That's very kind of you**, Mrs Wilson, but I'm afraid we'd already made plans to have lunch in town.*

*I am **much obliged** to you for your patience during the recent difficulties.*

*Oh, thanks, John, **you've saved my life!** She was just about to ask me for my homework. ♦ Thanks for telling my mum I wasn't here. **I owe you one!***

***Cheers**, Sara! I'll buy the drinks next time.*

*'You could always join us later.' 'Yeah, **thanks a bunch**, just when all the food is finished.'*

*'Since you did all the housework and cooked dinner, I'll clear up the dishes.' '**You're too kind!**'*

*Oh, **you shouldn't have!** These flowers are beautiful.*

***I'd like to thank** my mother, my father, and all those who've helped me over the years.*

***Many thanks** for the lovely present.*

Ways of accepting thanks

You're welcome/Don't mention it	used in reply to someone who has thanked you to say that you were happy to help
Not at all/It's nothing/(It's) my pleasure	a more formal way of replying to someone who has thanked you
It's/That's all right/(It's) no problem	used in reply to someone who has thanked you when you know the person well

Examples:

'Thank you very much for the lift.' **'Don't mention it.'** *I was going this way anyway.'*

'Thanks a lot for looking after the children.' **'It's my pleasure.'** *I adore children.'*

'Cheers, Rory. I couldn't have managed without your help.' **'No problem, mate.'**

Ways of emphasizing that something is true

Actually/In actual fact	used for saying what is really true, when this is different from what people think
There's no denying	used for saying that something is clearly true, even if you would prefer it not to be true
No doubt about it/There's no two ways about it	used for saying that something is definitely true
The fact remains (that)/The fact is	used for saying that something is still true despite what people have said or done
Let's face it/The truth is/There's no escaping the fact that	used before saying something that people might not want to accept, although it is true
Believe (you) me	used for emphasizing that you are telling the truth, especially when you are warning someone about something
You'd better believe it	used when talking to someone you know well, for emphasizing that what you are saying is true and they should take it seriously
I promise (you)/Take my word for it	used for emphasizing that what you are saying is completely true, even if it seems hard to believe or accept

Examples:

*People often think those two are sisters, but **in actual fact**, they're not even related.*

***There's no denying** Anthony is the best person for the job.*

There's no two ways about it**, the best team won. ♦ **We're going to need to borrow some money, no doubt about it.

*You can plead with him all you like, but **the fact remains**, he's gone and he's never coming back. ♦ **The fact is**, she lied about her qualifications when she applied for the job.*

***Let's face it**, we're getting too old for all these parties and concerts. ♦ **The truth is**, I just don't love you any more. ♦ **There's no escaping the fact that** your sister is prettier than you.*

*If you don't study harder for your exams, you're going to fail, **believe you me**. ♦ **Believe me**, there will be difficult times ahead if we don't act now.*

*'Are you really going to quit your job and sail round the world?' **You'd better believe it!***

***Take my word for it**, you're better off without him – he wasn't good enough for you.*

Ways of emphasizing that something is not true

Don't you believe it	an informal way of emphasizing to someone that something is not true
Where did you get that idea?	an informal way of telling someone that what they think is definitely not true
Nothing could be further from the truth	used for emphasizing that something is definitely not true
There must be some mistake	used for saying that you think what someone has said is not true or that you are being wrongly accused of something
I wish/If only	an informal way of saying that something is not true, although you would be pleased if it were true

Examples:

'I'm sure he'll be here soon.' **'Don't you believe it!'** *He never had any intention of coming.'*

'I hear you're moving to a new school.' **'Where did you get that idea?'**

*They think I'm rich and successful, but **nothing could be further from the truth.***

'James won't be at the meeting – he's on holiday this week.' **'There must be some mistake, I saw him just a minute ago.'**

'Is it true you're going out with Helen?' **'I wish!'**

Ways of warning someone

Be careful	the most usual and general way of warning someone
Beware	a formal way of warning people, often used on written signs
Take care/Mind how you go	a way of warning someone that is often used before someone leaves to go somewhere
Mind	a way of warning someone that there is something dangerous nearby
Watch out/Watch yourself/Look out/Mind out	a way of warning someone when they are in immediate danger
Easy does it/Steady	used for telling someone to do something carefully and gently, especially when they are moving something large or heavy
You can't be too careful/Better safe than sorry	a way of warning someone to be careful and not to take risks

Examples:

***Be careful** with that teapot – it's fragile.*

***Beware** of the dog.*

***Take care** on your way home. ♦ Have a safe journey – **mind how you go**.*

***Mind** your head on that lamp! ♦ **Mind** you don't spill coffee on the carpet!*

***Watch out!** There's a car coming! ♦ **Watch yourself!** There's broken glass everywhere! ♦ **Look out!** It's going to fall!*

***Easy does it!** This old cabinet was my grandfather's. ♦ **Steady!** You can't lift that table on your own. You'll hurt yourself.*

*Make sure you take a torch with you. **You can't be too careful**, you know.*