
“Cushioning”

“It seems to me . . .”

“It looks like . . .”

“How do you mean?”

“. . . Is that about right?”

“How does that sound to you?”

“Does that sound like something that would work for you?”

“I’m trying to do some fact-finding.”

“Did you happen to . . . ?”

“We had a little situation . . .”

“Can you shed any light on . . .”

“I need your advice on something.”

“What are your feelings on that?”

“I’ve heard something that deeply concerns me. Can you enlighten me on this?”

“An issue came up . . .”

“Would you be willing to . . .?”

“Would you be receptive to . . .?”

“Please help me understand . . .”