

Saying “No” Without Offending

“I’m uncomfortable . . .”

“This doesn’t feel right.”

“This is problematic for me.”

“I’m having trouble with that.”

“I think we need to take another look at that.”

“There’s a downside here, though.”

“We’ll just have to agree to disagree.”

“I really respect your position, but I can’t go along with it.”

“I’d like very much to help you, but I’m afraid I can’t.”

“My desired state is . . .”

“Are there any risks in this?”

“Let me check my perception on this.”

“I’d love to help you, but I’m going to have to pass on this one.”

“There’s a flip side to that, however.”