

Pete's Language of Discovery

For Analysis, Commentary and Inquiry

Why These Phrases Matter

I have made a list of phrases I often use when I am trying to understand something deeply complicated. I use these most when I am discussing and analyzing books. But these phrases can be used to think and analyze just about anything deeply.

These phrases are missing from most people's vocabulary — in any language.

The world is getting more complicated every day. We need to know when we are not sure about something. And we need to say it out loud.

When you are learning something new — especially something difficult — these phrases are essential. But most people never use them.

Instead, people guess. They pretend to know things they don't know. Sometimes they even believe they know — when they don't.

Social media and podcasts make this worse. Influencers sound certain about everything. Certainty gets likes and clicks. Doubt does not.

But the ability to say "I'm not sure" or "I feel differently" is one of the most powerful communication skills a person can have.

This is Pete's personal list. Use it.

The Phrases

- *If I'm not mistaken...*
- *I believe that...*
- *This is more complex than it first appears...*
- *It seems to me that...*
- *I can see two valid interpretations here...*
- *I am not sure, but I think/feel that...*
- *It's kinda like...*
- *I need to sit with this idea for a while...*
- *I'm not totally sure — it's more of a gut feeling*

- *There may be a contradiction here worth exploring...*
- *I have mixed feelings on that issue...*
- *I understand the argument, but I'm not fully convinced...*
- *Let's put that in the parking lot for now...*
- *Ok. There's THAT.*
- *My heart is getting in the way of logic this time.*
- *In my opinion / In my humble opinion...*
- *THAT is definitely a thing... I'm not quite sure how it relates...*
- *I have sentimental/emotional attachment to that idea from the past — and I am pretty sure that is not good in this situation.*
- *Let's be careful of rabbit trails here...*
- *I'm feeling overwhelmed...*
- *Maybe / possibly / kinda / sorta / ish...*
- *That is YOUR interpretation. Not mine.*
- *I feel differently.*

Important to Remember

When you use these phrases — use them with conviction. Be ready for pushback. Many people see these phrases as weakness.

The exact opposite is true. These are the phrases of strength and intelligence.