FEW SAY SO

ANIL
Perth, Australia

Polite, agreeable remarks are often insincere, hiding an opposite meaning. Here are some homophone antonyms illuminating these poles, a polite pole light or a sincere sin seer. The latter two homophones are from a Willard R. Espy article on “sound charades” in the May 1973 Word Ways. The last nine items below are modified from the same article.

What You Hear What’s Really Being Said
If you say so. Few say so.
I know. I no.
Of course. Off course.
No doubt. Note out.
Assuredly. Ass your head lee. [Your head is sheltering up your anus.]
Indeed! End deed!
Right you are. Wry-chew war.
For cert. Farce hurt.
Certainly. “Cert” in lee. [Sure truth is sheltered from you.]
Confirmed. Con firmed!
Beyond doubt. “Beyond!”—out!
Indubitable. In doo bit (a bull).
Irrefutable. Eerie, feudable.
Sure thing. It’s your thing.
Guaranteed. Care un-teed.
Reassuring. Rear’s urine. [Not calmed, I peed my pants.]
By all means. “Bile!” means. [Means bile.]
Very well. Vary will. [Will vary.]
I believe you. I be-leave you.
I dare say. “I’d airs!” eh?
Depend on it. (Deep-end o’ “nit”).
Foregone conclusion. “For” gone, “Con” clues, shun. [You’re no “Pro”].
Convincing. Convent scene! [Unbeliever speaking.]
Persuasive. Purse way’s sieve. [Won’t hold water, a money-loser.]
Good reply. Good? Reap lie!
Sensational! Sense saays “Shun all!”
Stupendous! “Stoop,” end us! [Stop, stupid!]
No question. No quest, shun.
Definite [or] deaf in it. “Deafen” it [or] Deafen it! [Make me deaf to it, it hurts my ears!]
Justifiable. Just if I able. [a charade]
Commendable. Come mend a “bull”.
Deplorable. Deep lore, able.
Exceptional. Except! Shun all.
Noble–nobler idea! Know bull, know blur idea.
Winsome neighbour. Wince some—nay, bore!
Correct. Basic. Core wrecked, base, sick!