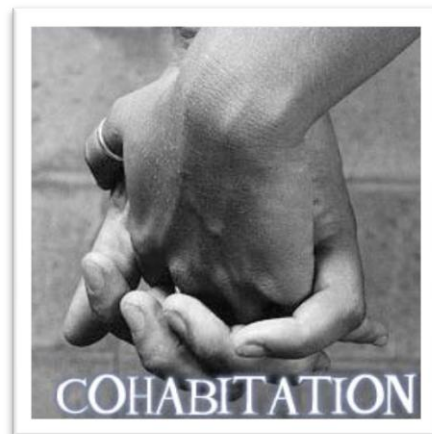


<b>Adjustment Level:</b>	Lower Intermediate-Advance
<b>Target Skill to be improved:</b>	Speaking and Reasoning
<b>Title:</b>	Debate is Fun (Free conversation)
<b>Topic for Debate:</b>	<b>Cohabitation is a replacement for marriage</b>

**Introduction:** This lesson gives the student more speaking opportunities in expressing his thoughts that would improve his/her speaking and reasoning skills. The student would also learn various expressions for agreeing and disagreeing.



Resolved: **That cohabitation is a replacement for marriage.**



# IDEA GENERATOR

## Pros

- It is fallacious to presume that marriage as an institution is what provides a stable home environment for a child.
- What is most important is the relationship between the two parents and their attitudes and relationships individually and together with the child.
- It is unreasonable to expect couples to stay together for a lifetime in this day and age. There is more social pressure than ever before to be happy - and this outweighs the necessity to make a marriage work regardless.

## Cons

- The principle of marriage has always been to provide a stable home life for the rearing of children. Psychologically scientific studies have found that co-habitation does not lend itself to as much psychological stability for a child.
- Marriage statistics themselves show that 1 out of 3 marriages are re-marriages.
- Legally, marriage represents a more solid and protected base for both parties.

## See for example:

**Person A:** “In my opinion, I believe that cohabitation is a practical replacement for marriage since couples can freely go on separately without settling any legal matters.”

**Person B:** “I strongly disagree with the proposition since I believe that marriage is sacred and nothing could ever replace it.”

## Expressions for Agreeing and Disagreeing

<b>Stating an opinion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In my opinion...</li><li>• The way I see it...</li><li>• If you want my honest opinion....</li><li>• According to Lisa...</li><li>• As far as I'm concerned...</li><li>• If you ask me...</li></ul>
<b>Asking for an opinion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What's your idea?</li><li>• What are your thoughts on all of this?</li><li>• How do you feel about that?</li><li>• Do you have anything to say about this?</li><li>• What do you think?</li><li>• Do you agree?</li><li>• Wouldn't you say?</li></ul>
<b>Expressing agreement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I agree with you 100 percent.</li><li>• I couldn't agree with you more.</li><li>• That's so true.</li><li>• That's for sure.</li><li>• <b>(slang)</b> Tell me about it!</li><li>• You're absolutely right.</li><li>• Absolutely.</li><li>• That's exactly how I feel.</li><li>• Exactly.</li><li>• I'm afraid I agree with James.</li><li>• I have to side with Dad on this one.</li><li>• No doubt about it.</li><li>• <b>(agree with negative statement)</b> Me neither.</li><li>• <b>(weak)</b> I suppose so./I guess so.</li><li>• You have a point there.</li><li>• I was just going to say that.</li></ul>
<b>Expressing disagreement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I don't think so.</li><li>• <b>(strong)</b> No way.</li><li>• I'm afraid I disagree.</li><li>• <b>(strong)</b> I totally disagree.</li><li>• I beg to differ.</li><li>• <b>(strong)</b> I'd say the exact opposite.</li><li>• Not necessarily.</li><li>• That's not always true.</li><li>• That's not always the case.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No, I'm not so sure about that.</li> </ul>
<b>Interruptions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can I add something here?</li> <li>• Is it okay if I jump in for a second?</li> <li>• If I might add something...</li> <li>• Can I throw my two cents in?</li> <li>• Sorry to interrupt, but...</li> <li>• <b>(after accidentally interrupting someone)</b> Sorry, go ahead. <b>OR</b> Sorry, you were saying...</li> <li>• <b>(after being interrupted)</b> You didn't let me finish.</li> </ul>
<b>Settling an argument</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Let's just move on, shall we?</li> <li>• Let's drop it.</li> <li>• I think we're going to have to agree to disagree.</li> <li>• <b>(sarcastic)</b> Whatever you say/If you say so.</li> </ul>