

**Adjustment Level:** Lower Intermediate-Advance

**Target Skill to be improved:** Speaking and Reasoning

**Title:** Debate is Fun (Free conversation)

**Topic for Debate:** **Which is the superior system-  
Capitalism or Socialism**

**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: **Which is the superior system—Capitalism or Socialism.**



# IDEA GENERATOR

## Pros

- The right to own property is central to man's existence. Private ownership of property gives individuals security and a means to control their own affairs.
- In capitalism, the market determines price, including pay - the price of labour.
- Socialism cannot protect human rights because it seeks the good of "the people" in the abstract.

## Cons

- The wealth of the earth belongs to all men or to none. Under capitalism, property is concentrated into the hands of relatively few well-off people, leaving the many with nothing and at the mercy of the rich for work, charity, etc. This leads to gross inequality, exploitation and misery.
- Wealth is concentrated in the hands of the few. The rich get richer, the poor get poorer.
- Economies in capitalist systems are essentially unplanned, so they often crash, producing depressions that damage the lives of millions.

## See for example:

**Person A:** "In my opinion, I believe Capitalism is superior to Socialism since Capitalism gives power to individuals without being overpowered by the government. Freedom is therefore absolute for people to earn profit for themselves."

**Person B:** "I strongly stand that Socialism is superior since there is equal distribution of society's goods to be achieved by the government. Everything is for the benefit of the whole economy, not just the rich."

## Expressions for Agreeing and Disagreeing

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <p><b>Stating an opinion</b></p>      | <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>  |
| <p><b>Asking for an opinion</b></p>   | <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>   |
| <p><b>Expressing agreement</b></p>    | <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> |
| <p><b>Expressing disagreement</b></p> | <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>  |