

**Adjustment Level:** Lower Intermediate-Advance

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

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

**Topic for Debate:** **The economic development of developing countries is more important than protecting the environment**

**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 the economic development of developing countries is more important than protecting the environment.**



# IDEA GENERATOR

## Pros

- Taking care of millions of people who are starving is more important than saving natural resources, most of which are renewable anyway.
- The industrialised world's emphasis on green issues holds back developing countries.
- Economic development is vital for meeting the basic needs of the growing populations of developing countries.

## Cons

- We have already wasted and destroyed vast amounts of natural resources, and in so doing have put earth at risk.
- No one wants to stop economic progress that could give millions better lives.
- Nations are losing more from pollution than they are gaining from industrialisation. China is a perfect example.
- The Green Revolution is threatening the biodiversity of the Third World by replacing native seeds with hybrids.

## See for example:

**Person A:** "In my opinion, I believe that the economic development of developing countries is more important than protecting the environment since it provides more jobs and stability to the lives of people."

**Person B:** "I strongly disagree with the proposition since I believe that our environment should always be our number 1 priority."

## 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>