

Adjustment Level:	Lower Intermediate-Advance
Target Skill to be improved:	Speaking and Reasoning
Title:	Debate is Fun (Free conversation)
Topic for Debate:	Alcohol should be illegal

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 alcohol should be illegal.**



IDEA GENERATOR

Pros

- Alcohol is a contributory factor to a huge proportion of crimes.
- Alcohol is just as potentially addictive as many illegal drugs. Those who do become addicted to alcohol often lose their marriages, jobs, families, even their lives.
- A large proportion of homeless people find themselves in that position as a result of their alcoholism. Any drug this addictive and destructive should be illegal.

Cons

- The main reason why the case of alcohol is different from that of other drugs is a social one rather than an empirical fact about the nature of the drug. Alcohol, unlike other drugs, is socially entrenched.
- At worst, alcohol may slightly exaggerate these tendencies - but that makes it the occasion not the underlying cause of violent crimes.
- Not only would banning alcohol infringe people's civil liberties to an unacceptable degree, it would also put thousands of people out of work.

See for example:

Person A: "In my opinion, I believe that alcohol should be illegal because according to one of the research works that I read in Breaking News English, alcohol is more dangerous than illegal drugs."

Person B: "I strongly disagree with the proposition since I believe that alcohol, if drunk moderately is healthy. Thus, we need to have alcohol intake even once a week."

Expressions for Agreeing and Disagreeing

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

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