

Adjustment Level: Lower Intermediate-Advance

Target Skill to be improved: Speaking and Reasoning

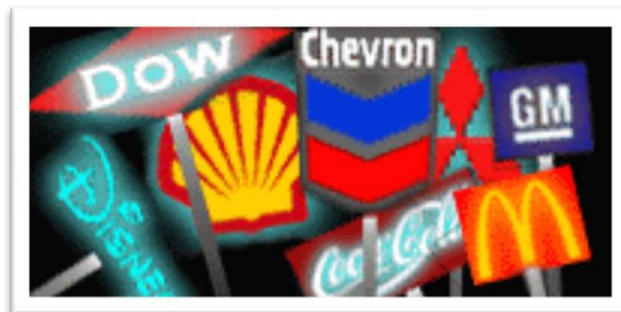
Title: Debate is Fun (Free conversation)

Topic for Debate: **The rise and spread of transnational companies exacerbated global economic inequalities**

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 rise and spread of transnational companies exacerbated global economic inequalities.**



IDEA GENERATOR

Pros

- The rise and spread of transnational companies intensifies global economic inequalities since the increasing size and wealth of these companies point to more concentration of wealth and of political and economic power and influence than before.
- The poor are being marginalized.
- There is an increased economic and social gap within countries and between countries, the richer are becoming richer and the poorer are becoming poorer.

Cons

- Transnational companies may not be a bad thing. They can be engines of positive change.
- Globalisation is a progressive force for creating global prosperity.
- Through free trade and capital mobility, globalisation is creating a global market civilisation in which prosperity, wealth, power and liberal democracy are being diffused around the globe.

See for example:

Person A: "In my opinion, I believe that the rise and spread of transnational companies intensifies global economic inequalities since the increasing size and wealth of these companies point to more concentration of wealth and of political and economic power and influence than before."

Person B: "I strongly disagree with the proposition since I believe transnational companies may not be a bad thing. They can be engines of positive change."

Expressions for Agreeing and Disagreeing

Stating an opinion	<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...
Asking for an opinion	<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?
Expressing agreement	<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.
Expressing disagreement	<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. • No, I'm not so sure about that.
Interruptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can I add something here?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.