

**Adjustment Level:** Lower Intermediate-Advance

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

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

**Topic for Debate:** **Parental spanking of children should be a crime**

**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 parental spanking of children should be a crime.**



# IDEA GENERATOR

## Pros

- Children should receive the same legal protection from violence as adults. It is wrong that parents can deliberately inflict pain to the extent that if inflicted on an adult it would justify prosecution.
- Spanking, however occasional, is harmful to children. As well as causing physical pain there are lasting psychological effects.
- Spanking is harmful to society as normative forms of violence spill over into criminal forms.

## Cons

- Parents are responsible for caring for their children and physical correction is legitimate in the context of a loving family environment.
- A ban on spanking will do nothing to tackle cases of real abuse, but will bring thousands of well-intentioned parents into the justice system.
- Spanking is only harmful to children when it is outside the context of a stable, loving and communicative home.

## See for example:

**Person A:** "In my opinion, I believe that spanking may lead to child abuse."

**Person B:** "I strongly disagree with the proposition since I believe that spanking is just a form of disciplinary use of force."

## 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>