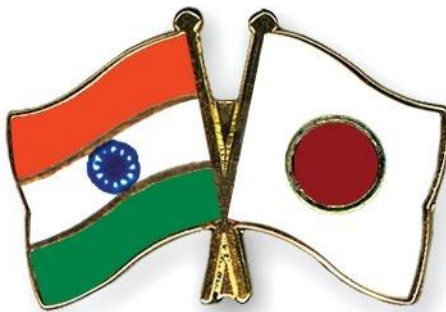


Adjustment Level:	Lower Intermediate-Advance
Target Skill to be improved:	Speaking and Reasoning
Title:	Debate is Fun (Free conversation)
Topic for Debate:	Should Japan prefer to give aid money bilaterally or multilaterally?

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: Should Japan prefer to give aid money bilaterally (directly to individual countries or projects) or multilaterally (channelling it through United Nations agencies, World Bank, NGOs, etc.)?



IDEA GENERATOR

Pros

- Multilateral aid tends to be less tied to the political self-interest of individual donor countries.
- One criticism of bilateral aid arrangements is that they are often drawn up based on self-interest.
- Multilateral aid, particularly when delivered through NGOs or the UN, allows for the efficient pooling of financial resources.
- Multilateral aid arrangements tend to avoid unnecessarily coercive conditions. Multilateral aid arrangements help ensure that different bilateral arrangements do not work at cross-purposes.

Cons

- Many aid yen have been wasted on countries with corrupt regimes that have misused the funds, or the recipients have lacked the resources internally to use the funds productively.
- Multilateral aid through NGOs or UN agencies is less cost-efficient. Direct aid means that that aid is immediately reaching its destination and can begin working for the recipient government.
- Bilateral aid has the potential to help in the war against terrorism, or with other security concerns, in a way that multilateral aid cannot.
- Working through the agencies of multilateral institutions and NGOs risks creating a dependency culture where unaccountable foreigners supply all the physical and social needs of local society.

See for example:

Person A: “In my opinion, I believe that the Japan should give it multilaterally since multilateral aid tends to be less tied to the political self-interest of individual donor countries”.

Person B: “I strongly disagree with the proposition since I believe that many aid dollars have been wasted on countries with corrupt regimes that have misused the funds, or the recipients have lacked the resources internally to use the funds productively.”

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. • No, I'm not so sure about that.
<p>Interruptions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can I add something here? • Is it okay if I jump in for a second?

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