

<b>Adjustment Level:</b>	Lower Intermediate-Advance
<b>Target Skill to be improved:</b>	Speaking and Reasoning
<b>Title:</b>	Debate is Fun (Free conversation)
<b>Topic for Debate:</b>	<b>Countries should adopt US-style provisions which allow companies to trade in bankruptcy.</b>

**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: **Countries should adopt U.S.-style provisions which allow companies to trade in bankruptcy.**

*Bankruptcy*



# IDEA GENERATOR

## Pros

- Chapter 11-style provisions allow a business to reorganise. Often a good business can be crippled by its previously incurred debts.
- An “all or nothing” approach encourages corporate management to act recklessly and reinforce their previous mistakes
- Reorganisation can help to protect the interests of employees and other stakeholders. Forcing a company into liquidation prioritises the interests of a company’s creditors over the interests of all other persons who may have an interest in the fortunes of the company
- Bankruptcy is a special sort of business process and so is not as well thought through by many businesses as other processes would be.

## Cons

- Reorganisation serves to prop up bad businesses. When a company is approaching insolvency, it reflects the fact that it is basically a bad business or has been badly run.
- The chance of Chapter 11 reorganisation discourages the correct level of risk aversion and creates a moral hazard.
- Shareholders’ interests are poorly protected if at all in Chapter 11-style bankruptcies.

## See for example:

**Person A:** “In my opinion, I believe that this would allow a business to reorganise; often a good business can be crippled by its previously incurred debts”.

**Person B:** “I strongly disagree with the proposition since I believe that reorganisation only serves to prop up bad businesses; when a company is approaching insolvency, it reflects the fact that it is basically a bad business or has been badly run.”

## Expressions for Agreeing and Disagreeing

<b>Stating an opinion</b>	<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>
<b>Asking for an opinion</b>	<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>
<b>Expressing agreement</b>	<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>
<b>Expressing disagreement</b>	<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><li>• No, I'm not so sure about that.</li></ul>

## Interruptions

- 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

- 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.