

Adjustment Level: Lower Intermediate-Advance

Target Skill to be improved: Speaking and Reasoning

Title: Debate is Fun (Free conversation)

Topic for Debate: **Countries should change their official currency to US dollar**

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 change their official currency to the U.S. dollar.



IDEA GENERATOR

Pros

- Full dollarization is the only exchange rate system that can protect countries from currency crises.
- Dollarization reduces the risk of inflation.
- Stabilising the exchange rate against the dollar means that the risks of trading between the countries are reduced, and trade with the US will increase. This, in turn, promotes economic growth.

Cons

- Currency crises can be better avoided under floating exchange rates.
- Other methods are available to limit inflationary tendencies.
- By losing the ability to set interest rates, governments lose the ability to help their country in a recession.
- Without an independent central bank, countries have no "lender of last resort" to rescue banks if there is a banking crisis.

See for example:

Person A: "In my opinion, I believe that full dollarization is the only exchange rate system that can protect countries from currency crises".

Person B: "I strongly disagree with the proposition since I believe that currency crises can be better avoided under floating exchange rates."

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.

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.