

Adjustment Level:	Lower Intermediate-Advance
Target Skill to be improved:	Speaking and Reasoning
Title:	Debate is Fun (Free conversation)
Topic for Debate:	Do the benefits of joining the Euro outweigh the cost?

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: **Do the benefits of joining the Euro outweigh the costs?**



IDEA GENERATOR

Pros

- It is hard to enjoy full membership of a single market without also participating in a single currency.
- Remaining outside the euro disadvantages businesses who are forced to compete with euro-member ones which have reduced transactions costs of exchange rate fluctuations.
- The euro will provide a challenge to the supremacy of the dollar, making worldwide investment less dependent on the vagaries of one country's economy."

Cons

- It is a fallacy to assume that merely showing that prices differ will force unofficial harmonisation.
- Businesses who trade outside the euro-zone will still have to account for international currency market fluctuations, which they can protect against by hedging or forward currency trading of euros as well
- Monetary inflexibility is extremely dangerous, given that asymmetric shocks will become more likely as the EU expands.

See for example:

Person A: "In my opinion, I believe that it is hard to enjoy full membership of a single market without also participating in a single currency".

Person B: "I strongly disagree with the proposition since I believe that it is a fallacy to assume that merely showing that prices differ will force unofficial harmonisation."

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.