

**Adjustment Level:** Lower Intermediate-Advance

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

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

**Topic for Debate:** **Japan should expand military power**

**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 Japan should expand military power.**



# IDEA GENERATOR

## Pros

- Japan's conservative leadership believes Japan must develop a hard power, traditional military security role to make it more secure and respected in spite of the fact that Japan faces obstacles that handicap it when compared to other major powers.
- Traditional security is inherently problematic for Japan.
- Japan's wealth and technological sophistication give it the potential to be a leader in the area of non-traditional security, which is a promising route to wider international recognition and appreciation—and a reputation built on soft, rather than hard, power.

## Cons

- There are non-traditional alternatives that are substitutable because Japan can enhance international security in its broadest meaning through non-traditional means.
- The normative argument against reliance on military force is that taking human life, especially in war's systematic and premeditated way, is categorically evil and reprehensible. This objection comes naturally to religious groups and anti-war activists.
- Their alternative is to commit oneself to harmonious relations with others

## See for example:

**Person A:** "In my opinion, I believe that Japan should expand their military power and continue being allies with South Korea and America to threaten China and North Korea's nuclear rise."

**Person B:** "I strongly disagree with the proposition since I believe that expanding Japanese military power raises the probabilities of conflict or instability in Asia, and should be discouraged."

## 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>