

**Adjustment Level:** Lower Intermediate-Advance

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

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

**Topic for Debate:** **Laws should be passed to further limit gun ownership**

**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 laws should be passed to further limit gun ownership.**



# IDEA GENERATOR

## Pros

- The more instruments of death and injury can be removed from our society, the safer it will be.
- The legal ownership of guns by law-abiding citizens inevitably leads to many unnecessary and tragic deaths
- There is a correlation between the laxity of a country's gun laws and its suicide rate – not because gun owners are more depressive, but because the means of quick and effective suicide is easily to hand

## Cons

- Prohibition is not the answer, especially not in countries such as the USA where gun ownership is such an entrenched aspect of society.
- Guns don't kill people – people kill people. Restricting gun ownership will do nothing to make society safer as it is the intent of the criminal we should fear, and that will remain the same whatever the gun laws.

## See for example:

**Person A:** “In my opinion, I believe that laws should be passed to further limit gun ownership to avoid possible negligence of gun handling.”

**Person B:** “I strongly disagree with the proposition since I believe that common people also need guns for self-protection.”

## 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>
<b>Interruptions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can I add something here?</li> </ul>

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