

Adjustment Level: Lower Intermediate-Advance

Target Skill to be improved: Speaking and Reasoning

Title: Debate is Fun (Free conversation)

Topic for Debate: **Governments in rich countries should relax the laws controlling immigration**

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 governments in rich countries should relax the laws controlling immigration.**



IDEA GENERATOR

Pros

- People are being kept in unbearable poverty by immigration laws that bar them from pursuing work in the countries where it is available.
- Rich countries are in a demographic crisis with an ever decreasing working population to support pensioners.
- Rich countries that have boomed in the 90's are short of both skilled and unskilled workers who are kept out by stringent immigration law.

Cons

- We should attempt to improve the situation in poor countries rather than just allowing anyone with the drive to leave.
- Far more people will be exploited if we allow total immigration.
- Rich countries may be dealing with a burden of supporting more old people but raising the population is not the answer.

See for example:

Person A: "In my opinion, I believe that the governments in rich country should relax the laws controlling immigration because immigrants help in the development of the country's economy."

Person B: "I strongly disagree with the proposition since I believe that immigration only causes overpopulation."

Expressions for Agreeing and Disagreeing

Stating an opinion	<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...
Asking for an opinion	<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?
Expressing agreement	<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.
Expressing disagreement	<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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can I add something here?

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