

It's up for debate!



1. Put the phrases below into the correct column:

Do you agree?	The way I see it is...
In my opinion...	Can I add something here?
I don't think so.	I'm afraid I disagree.
I agree.	What are your thoughts on this?
What do you think?	That's not always the case.
Not necessarily.	I agree with you to an extent.
Exactly!	Do you have anything to say about this?
Absolutely!	Can I interrupt?
As far as I'm concerned..	Sorry to interrupts but...
Let's move on shall we?	Let's agree to disagree.
You have a point.	Don't you think?
I think...	You don't think ... do you?

Agreeing	Disagreeing	Neutral
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - You have a point - Exactly. - Absolutely. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I'm afraid I disagree. - That's not always the case - I agree with you to an extent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not necessarily. - As far as I'm concerned - The way I see it is... - In my opinion... - I think
Asking for an opinion	Interrupting	Settling an argument
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do you agree? - What do you think? - What are your thoughts on this? - Don't you think? - You don't think ... do you? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can I add something here? - Can I interrupt? - Sorry to interrupt, but... - Do you have anything to say about this? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Let's move on, shall we? - Let's agree to disagree.



2. You are going to listen to three people having a debate. Listen and answer the following questions:

1. What is the debate about?

The debate is about vegetarianism. The first speaker thinks everyone should be on a plant based diet.

2. Which points do you find interesting?

.....

3. Who do you agree with the most?

.....



3. Listen to the recording a second time and answer the following:

Which phrase or phrases are used to...

- ask for an opinion

Don't you think?

You don't think ... do you?

- to disagree

I'm afraid I disagree...

I agree with you to an extent...

- offer a neutral opinion

Well the way I see it is...

In my opinion...

I think...

As far as I'm concerned...

- agree

You have a point...

- interrupt

Can I interrupt?

- settle an argument

We'll have to agree to disagree.



4. Now pick a card and have some mini debates with your class!

Teacher:

Cut the cards below. Split students into two groups and give them a selection of cards.

Option 1: Students should choose debate topics and have a debate with the other group. One group should be for and one group should be against. Give the students time to organise their argument points and ask students to practice using phrases from the previous page.

Option 2: Let the students take turns in choosing a topic and then allow them to discuss it freely in class, in groups or in pairs.

Extra: Ask the students to come up with some of their own debate topics.

Feel free to set a time limit for each debate.



<p>People should be allowed to eat dogs and cats.</p>	<p>We should start talking about sugar like a drug.</p>	<p>Driverless cars should not be allowed on the streets.</p>
<p>We should create a cashless society and only use alternative forms of payment.</p>	<p>Women should take a man's last name when they get married.</p>	<p>Boys and girls should be separated at school.</p>
<p>Schools should ban dating.</p>	<p>Students shouldn't be allowed to use their smartphones in class.</p>	<p>Children should get their first smartphone when they are in primary school.</p>
<p>Euthanasia should be legalised.</p>	<p>Marriage is outdated.</p>	<p>Smartphones made our lives easier.</p>
<p>Climate change is a fact.</p>	<p>Video games are a waste of time.</p>	<p>Alcohol should be illegal.</p>
<p>Plastic surgery is a good thing.</p>	<p>Everyone should be vegetarian.</p>	<p>English is easy to learn.</p>
<p>Everyone has the right to voice their opinion even if the opinion is false according to well-known facts.</p>	<p>The government should have the right to monitor phone calls and emails.</p>	<p>Military or civil service should be obligatory for everyone.</p>
<p>Smoking marijuana should be legal.</p>	<p>Women are better at teaching than men.</p>	<p>Money can buy happiness.</p>



Audio script for exercise 2 and 3:

Jack: I think everyone should be a vegetarian. It's the right thing to do don't you think?

Lucy: I'm afraid I disagree. I mean people have always eaten meat and people want to eat meat so why should they be forced to eat vegetarian food?

Jack : Well the way I see it is eating a plant based food would be better for the environment and kinder to animals.

Lucy: You have a point about the environment but we all do our bit in different ways. In my opinion there is nothing wrong with eating animals. That's what they're there for, it's the circle of life! I just think that...

Daniel: Can I interrupt? I think you're both right. Being vegetarian is good for the environment and even if you think eating animals is natural surely you don't agree with factory farming do you?

Lucy: No of course not but as far as I'm concerned as long as animals are treated humanely then its fine to eat them

Jack: Well I agree with you to an extent but how can you kill something humanely?

Lucy: By causing it no pain of course.

Peter: I think we'll just have to agree to disagree on this one.