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Language for…
Discussions & Debates

I disagree!

The language below is commonly used while arguing for or against points of view and asking for and giving opinions. These phrases are very useful and worth memorizing.

Agreeing:

- I agree…
- I think this is right…
- I'm in favour of [topic]
- I am for [topic]
- I believe this is right.

Disagreeing:

- I disagree…
- I think this is wrong because…
- I'm not in favour of [topic]
- I am against [topic]
- I believe this is wrong.

Asking for Opinions:

- What do you think?
- Do you agree?
- What is your opinion?
- What are your thoughts on [topic]?

Giving Opinions:

- In my opinion…
- I think that…
- My opinion is that…
- I believe that…

Exercise 1: Discuss the statements below using the language given above.

It should be illegal to kill animals for human consumption.	Girls and boys should be parented differently.	Women make better leaders.
It is selfish to have children.	Respect should be earned.	The world has become too politically correct.
Marriage should be abolished.	Space travel is a waste of money.	The working week should be no more than 30 hours.

Teacher's Notes

| **Lesson:** Language for... Discussions & Debates | **Level:** B1-B2 | **Time:** 1 hour + |

Preparation:

− Display page 1 or print handouts.

Teaching Method:

Step 1:

− Elicit language used for debating, asking for and giving opinions.

Step 2:

− Present the language for agreeing, disagreeing, asking for and giving opinions on the board and explain that this language is commonly used while debating.

− Ask the class if they can add any phrases to the lists and write any given on the board.

Step 3:

− Put the students into small groups and get them to complete exercise 1, debating the statements while using the new language learned. Remind them to elaborate as much as possible and to back up their opinions with reasons.

− Monitor and remind the students to use the new language as they complete the task. Give them about 3 minutes to debate each topic.

− Take note of any errors.

Step 4:

− Gather feedback from the class on their opinions on each topic.

Step 5:

− Write any errors made during the lesson on the board and have the class identify and correct them.

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