

Activity Type

Speaking Activity: guided discussions, explaining, reporting, refuting (group work)

Focus

Giving and defending opinions

Giving reasons

Aim

To practice expressing and defending opinions.

Preparation

Make one copy of the signs and statements.

Level

Intermediate (B1)

Time

35 minutes

Introduction

In this fun giving opinions activity, students practice expressing and defending their opinions.

Procedure

Place each sign in a different corner of the classroom.

Ask the students to stand up.

Read one of the statements to the class, e.g. 'Celebrities earn too much money'.

Tell the students to go to the corner that best matches their opinion on the topic, i.e. strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree.

The students in the same corner discuss why they chose that opinion and then report their reasons back to the class.

After each corner has given reasons for their opinion, the students from the different corners politely refute another corner's opinion.

Afterwards, see if any of the students want to switch to another corner.

Repeat the process with another statement and so on.

Signs

Strongly Agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

Statements

1. Celebrities earn too much money.
2. Multinational corporations are to blame for most problems in the world today.
3. It is impossible to have a happy family life and a successful career.
4. Military service should be obligatory.
5. Everyone who earns a salary should pay income tax.
6. Smoking should be banned in all places, including private homes.
7. Arriving late to meet friends is rude.
8. We shouldn't allow children to eat fast food.
9. The government should build more low cost homes to sell to poor families.
10. Teachers give too much homework.
11. Women will never be equal to men in the workplace.
12. The death penalty is acceptable in some cases.
13. The Internet is a good way to find a boyfriend or girlfriend.
14. Couples should live together for a year or so before getting married.
15. The government should not bail out banks if they fail.
16. Making mistakes in English is OK as long as people understand you.
17. War is not an option for solving international disputes.
18. People should be able to live in any country they choose.
19. It's a good idea to charge people for driving through city centers.
20. Real human communication is getting worse because of the Internet.
21. Social media comments should be protected by free speech.
22. It's not acceptable for a woman to ask a man out on a date.
23. Quality of life will greatly improve in the future.
24. It's much better to travel independently than in a tour group.
25. All parents should be required to attend parenting classes before having a child.