

Activity Type

Speaking Activity: guided discussions, explaining, reporting, refuting, communicative practice (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

30 minutes

Introduction

In this giving and defending 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 a statement to the class, e.g. 'Celebrities earn too much money.'

Students then go to the corner that best matches their opinion on the topic, i.e. strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree.

Next, the students in the same corner discuss why they chose that opinion and then report their reasons 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, students who felt persuaded by any of the arguments switch corners.

The process is then repeated with a new statement, and so on.

Signs

Strongly Agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

Statements

1. Celebrities earn too much money.
2. All students should be required to wear a school uniform.
3. It is impossible to have a happy family life and a successful career.
4. Exams are the best way to measure student ability.
5. Everyone who earns a salary should pay tax.
6. Smoking should be banned in all places, including private homes.
7. Arriving late to meet friends is rude.
8. We should not allow children to eat fast food.
9. Everyone should be required to learn a second language.
10. Teachers give too much homework.
11. It is better to be honest even if it hurts someone's feelings.
12. People should be fined for not recycling.
13. Dating apps are a good way to find a romantic partner.
14. Couples should live together for at least a year before getting married.
15. Video games are a waste of time.
16. Online learning is as effective as traditional classroom learning.
17. Money can't buy happiness.
18. People should be able to live in any country they choose.
19. It is a good idea to charge people for driving through city centers.
20. People are spending too much time online and not enough time talking to each other.
21. Animals should not be kept in zoos.
22. People should be allowed to work from home if they choose to.
23. It is better to be a leader than a follower.
24. We should only eat food that is grown locally.
25. Working part-time while studying improves student responsibility.