
Speaking Discussion Topics

Easy level

1. What do you do to relax?

Discuss...

Relax on your own or with others?

How do people in your country relax?

Parents relax?

2. Should people buy or rent houses?

Discuss...

Benefits and drawbacks

Parents, friends, your future

3. What is your favourite technology app?

Why?

How it works?

Other apps that are important to you

Medium Level:

1. Education

What are the benefits of studying in another country in terms of quality of education, the cultural experience and future employment benefits?

2. Family

From the perspective of children, their parents and grand-parents, what are the advantages of all three generations living together in one house?

3. Transport

In terms of cost comfort and convenience, which is a better way to travel by car or train?

Hard level:

1. A Foreign Language

From a personal, economic and social perspective, what effect can learning a foreign language have on your life?

2. Global population

How will the increasing global population affect people in their home, working and financial lives?

3. Environment

How could a move towards a greener environment affect countries economically, socially and politically?

Language Phrases

Giving Opinions

In my opinion...

From my perspective/point of view...

It's my understanding that...

In my mind...

It seems to me/It appears to me...

I am convinced that...

I strongly/firmly believe

There is no question/doubt that...

Example: It's my understanding that adopting the Euro will benefit Europe's economies in numerous ways.

Stating facts

It's well known that....

It's a fact that....

I'm positive that....

I'm absolutely sure that.....

Example: It's a fact that the Euro will make prices across Europe more transparent.

Interrupting

Yes, but...

I see what you mean but...

Example: Yes, but it has already lost value against the U.S. dollar .

Pinpointing a problem

It seems to me that...

The real problem is...

It's quite clear that...

Example: The real problem is that not all countries in Europe are necessarily in favour of the EURO which means that only some economies will benefit.

Adding Information

Yes, but...

Let me add another point...

Let me just add to what was just said...

I agree with what X said, but I'd like to add something...

Furthermore...

Example: Furthermore, the EURO may not level the economic playing field between countries and different standards of living will continue to exist.

Checking that you have understood

Please correct me if I'm wrong, but...

Could I ask a few questions to check my understanding of your position?

Could we go through that again?

Example: Please correct me if I'm wrong, but isn't the EURO supposed to raise the standards in the less affluent European countries to meet those in the richer countries?

Proposing a solution

What if _X_ were to...

Supposing _X_ tried...

Wouldn't a fair solution...

Example: Supposing all EU members adopted the Euro for a trial period with the option of abandoning the currency if economic matters failed to improve.

Demonstrating Understanding

If I understood you correctly, you...

I appreciate your/that point of view...

I can understand your/that perspective...

Example: I appreciate your point of view and I agree completely.

Focusing on difficulties

The argument falls apart/is weakened...

The main issue/problem as I see it...

Where I have difficulty with your notion(s) is/are...

Example: The main problem as I see it, is that not all European countries are starting from the same economic departure point.

Disagreeing

I disagree/ completely disagree

I'm afraid that I can't quite agree

I can see your point, but...

I have some reservations about that point of view...

Example: I disagree with your last point because the EURO will equalize commerce, trade and labour costs.

Seeing both sides

On the one hand...

One way of looking at it is...

Yes, but the flip side of the issue is...

You can't ignore...

Example: On the one hand adopting the EURO will bolster competition among European nations while on the other hand it will combat U.S., global market domination.