

COMMUNICATION ACTIVITY:

Debate challenge!

Aim: to practise giving opinions, interrupting, disagreeing, and encouraging

Classroom dynamics: small groups

Time taken: 25-30 minutes

Procedure:

- Divide students into groups, tell them that they are going to take turns to debate with each other. They will have time to prepare their arguments first.
- Give each group Debate topics cards and Useful language cards. Ask them to put Debate topics cards face down. Then, ask each group to take the first card and give them 2 minutes to share and write the arguments.
- Ask each group to put Useful language cards face up and then ask them to start the debate. As they do so, they should try to use the Useful phrases. The debate continues for up to 4 minutes. The aim is to use as many Useful phrases as possible.
- The activity then continues with the next Debate topic. Students use the Useful phrases cards again so that every group member can practise them.
- Students continue like this until all the Debate topics have been discussed.

Debate topics:

Couchsurfing is a safe way of experiencing a foreign culture.
Couchsurfing is only for extroverts.
Travelling is about connecting with local people and couchsurfing is the best shot at that.
Is couchsurfing better for solo or group travelling?

Useful phrases:

Excuse me. I'd like to say that ...	Would you like to add anything?
I'm sorry to interrupt you, but I want to say that ...	I'm not sure about ...
I believe that ...	Similarly, ...
It's true that ... However, ...	Can I add something here, please?