

New Internationalist
The people, the ideas, the action in the fight for global justice

Argue better

New Internationalist Easier English
Ready Intermediate Lesson

Lesson menu

Starter: **speaking** (**argue**)

Main courses: **grammar** (modal verbs)



speaking (**argue better**)

language (agree and disagree)

vocabulary (for the reading)

reading (prepare for argument)

speaking (**argue even better**)

Dessert: **writing** (comment to discussion forum)

Choose a topic and argue!

- Countries - which is best?
- Food – meat or vegetables?
- Toys – same for girls and boys?
- Cars - which is best?
- Education – private or free?
- Politics – Labour or Conservative?
- TV programmes – which are best?
- Animals – cat or dog?
- Languages - which is easiest?



Complete these sentences in pairs with some of the things you said in your arguments:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| 1) I think we | should ... |
| | shouldn't ... |
| 2) We really | ought to ... |
| 3) In my opinion, we | have to .. |
| 4) Everyone | must ... |
| | mustn't ... |

Language 1: modal verbs:

look at the pattern:

modal verb + infinitive

Is the grammar correct?

1/ I think we **should** all **be** vegetarians.

2/ We really **ought** **stop** driving so much.

3 In my opinion, we **have to** **learning** Chinese.

4/ We **must to** **accept** all religions.

5/ We **shouldn't** **drive** short journeys.

Now discuss these statements – do you agree?

1/ I think we should all be vegetarians.

2/ We really ought to stop driving so much.

3/ In my opinion, we have to learn Chinese.

4/ We must accept all religions.

5/ We shouldn't drive on short journeys.

Language 2: agreeing and disagreeing:

Agree:

Disagree:

Language for agreeing and disagreeing:

Agree:

I agree **because...**

I agree with you

I completely agree

I think so too

Disagree:

I don't agree **because ...**

I disagree

I don't agree with you

I totally disagree

I don't think so, actually

Dictation – agree or disagree?

1. There are too many people in the world.
2. Climate change is a big problem at the moment.
3. If people don't have so many children, climate change won't be such a big problem.
4. People shouldn't have children.
5. People have the right to have as many children as they want.

What do these words/phrases mean?

fossil fuels

energy consumption

carbon emissions

sustainable

clean energy

Match phrase and definition:

1) *clean energy*

2) *fossil fuels*

3) *carbon emissions*

4) *energy consumption*

5) *sustainable*

a) coal, oil and gas

b) how much energy we use

c) energy from natural sources (eg. sun, wind, waves) that produces less CO₂

d) when we protect the planet by not using too many resources

e) the amount of CO₂ produced

Question:

**If we worry about
climate change, should
we
have
children?**

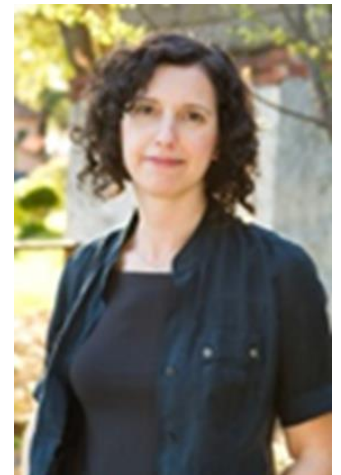


Yes, or no?

Anne Hendrixson is the Director of PopDev. PopDev is a centre for critical thinking, learning and working for peace, population and the environment at Hampshire College, US.



Erica Gies is an independent journalist . She writes about what we need for life: water and energy. She writes for The New York Times, The Guardian, Scientific American etc.



A: Agree

B: Disagree

Read this to find **5** good points to support your argument, and compare with your partner:

<http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Argument: If you worry about climate change, is it a good idea to have children%3F>

New pairs : A & B:

Argue!



- + remember a) should/ought to + infinitive**
- b) language to agree/disagree**

Write a response to these comments on an online discussion forum:

Bill says: Lately I haven't been able to sleep because I'm so worried about climate change. Surely these problems would all be solved if people stopped being so selfish having more and more children?

Cathy says: What a horrible thing to say! It's not children who are causing climate change, it's big business. What we need to do is stop them and make them more sustainable.

(remember to use modal verbs and language to agree or disagree)

Research:



Find another argument:

<http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Arguments>

Read it and make notes on:

YES points and

NO points

Have a few more arguments!

Homework:

- 1/ Choose one of the topics from today's lesson (children, climate change, food, toys, or any of the arguments you read).
- 2/ Decide on a letter you want to write – who to? why?
- 3/ Write the letter. Make sure it explains very clearly what you want to say.
- 4/ Check your letter very carefully for errors.
- 5/ Send it!