

Arguments



New Internationalist Easier English
Upper-Intermediate Ready Lesson

Lesson menu

Starters: **speaking** (friendly arguments)
grammar (review modal verbs)

Main courses: **speaking** (introduction to texts)



vocabulary (nuclear power / wages)

reading (prepare for argument)

speaking (arguments and questions)

Dessert: **writing**

In pairs, choose a topic and argue!

- Education – private or free?
- Countries - which is best?
- Food – what is best?
- Transport – are buses better than trains?
- Cars - which is best?
- Politics – which party is best?
- TV programmes – which are best?
- Animals - which is best?
- 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) We | must ... |
| | mustn't ... |

Remember modal verbs:

look at the pattern:

modal verb + infinitive

Is the grammar correct?

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

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

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

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

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

Now discuss these statements – do
you agree?

I think we should all be vegetarians.

We really ought to stop driving so much.

In my opinion, we have to learn Chinese.

We must accept all religions.

We shouldn't drive on short journeys.

Nuclear power – yes or no?



Nuclear power?



The earthquake and tsunami in Japan have shown that nuclear power is dangerous.

Governments in many countries are thinking again about plans for nuclear power. Are they wrong? Chris Goodall and Jose Etcheverry are both environmentalists – but they don't agree on the question of nuclear power.

Pairs: what do **you think? And **why**?**

What do these words/phrases mean?

renewable energy

fossil fuels

carbon emissions

wind turbines

conservation

efficiency

Match phrase and definition:

1) *renewable energy*

2) *fossil fuels*

3) *carbon emissions*

4) *wind turbines*

5) *conservation*

6) *efficiency*

a) keeping the energy we have

b) these are coal, oil and gas

c) energy from natural sources (eg. sun, wind, waves) that will not end

d) using less energy, often with new technology

e) machines to produce energy from wind

f) the amount of CO₂ produced

Maximum wage – yes or no?

People made a human ring around the European Parliament in Brussels to fight against poverty and inequality in the EU (Nov 2011). Thierry Roge / Reuters



Maximum wage?



The super-rich are now very different from the rest of society. Everyone is watching the unbalanced wealth, power and control of this small group. But if we put a limit on earnings, would this help to balance society?

Pairs: What do **you** think? And **why**?

What do these words mean?

living wage

shareholders

inequality

to consume

to restrict

debt

pressure

earnings

Match words/phrases with definitions:

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1) living wage | a) to use / eat / buy something |
| 2) shareholders | b) the people who own parts of a company |
| 3) inequality | c) the money people need to live OK |
| 4) to consume | d) money you owe and need to re-pay |
| 5) to restrict | e) force or power to help something change |
| 6) debt | f) wages / salary |
| 7) pressure | g) not being the same |
| 8) earnings | h) to stop something getting bigger |

Now read your part to prepare for
your argument.

4 groups: 1A, 1B, 2A and 2B

Text 1 (nuclear power) : A (yes) &
B (no)

[http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Is nuclear power necessary for a carbon-free world%3F](http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Is_nuclear_power_necessary_for_a_carbon-free_world%3F)

Text 2 (maximum wage) : A (yes)
& B (no)

[http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Should we have a maximum wage%3F](http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Should_we_have_a_maximum_wage%3F)

In groups (all 1As together, all 1Bs together etc):

Prepare your argument

Decide on 5 or 6 points

Check with others if you're not sure about some ideas

Change groups so there is one of each (1A, 1B, 2A, 2B) in each group:

Now have two arguments:



- 1) One pair argue (and the others take notes to ask questions afterwards).
- 2) The other pair argue (and the first pair take notes to ask questions afterwards).

Writing:

Choose one of the two topics and write a balanced argument:

- Introduction (what is the question?)
- 3 or 4 points for YES (try to use modal verbs)
- 3 or 4 points for NO (however, on the other hand ...)
- Conclusion (what do you really think?)

Homework:



Go to this website:

<http://www.newint.org/sections/argument/>

and read both the arguments in their original (more difficult) version – you will now find them quite easy to understand.