

Advanced Debate & Discussion Prompts

Genuinely challenging discussion topics for advanced learners practising extended, nuanced spoken argument.

How to Use These Prompts

Practise alone by recording a 2-3 minute response, or with a partner by taking opposing sides. For each topic, try to genuinely argue a position you don't personally hold — this builds real linguistic and argumentative flexibility.

Technology & Society

Is society's growing dependence on AI ultimately beneficial or harmful to human capability and independence?

Work & Economy

Should a universal basic income be introduced as automation displaces more jobs?

Education

Are traditional university degrees still worth their cost in the current job market?

Ethics

Is it ever justifiable to prioritise loyalty to family or friends over strict honesty?

Environment

Should individual countries be allowed to prioritise economic growth over global environmental commitments?

Culture

Does globalisation ultimately enrich or erode individual cultural identities?

Governance

Should social media platforms be held legally responsible for misinformation shared by users?

Personal Freedom

Where should the line be drawn between personal freedom and public health regulation?

Useful Language for Nuanced Argument

Conceding a point before countering: "While it's true that..., I'd still argue..."

Introducing nuance: "It depends on the context, but broadly speaking..."

Signalling a strong claim carefully: "I'd go so far as to say..."

Acknowledging complexity: "This isn't a simple yes-or-no issue, because..."

Self-Coaching Tip

Record yourself arguing both sides of the same topic on different days. Compare — where did you sound more natural, and why? This builds genuine flexibility rather than a fixed set of memorised opinions.