14A Agree or disagree

Activity type: Speaking – Card game – Pairs

Aim: To express opinions and agree/disagree

Language: Agreeing and politely disagreeing / Unreal conditionals – Use any time after 14.2.

Preparation: Make one copy of the worksheet for every two learners. Cut the copies up and make a separate set of opinion strips and response cards for each pair.

Time: 15–20 minutes

1 On the board, write a statement that learners are likely to have opinions about, such as *If fast food was banned, people would be healthier*. Refer learners to the language for agreeing and disagreeing on p115 of the Coursebook and invite them to agree or disagree with your statement. Encourage them to give reasons.

2 Divide learners into A/B pairs and give each pair one set of opinion strips and one set of response cards, putting them in two piles face down on the table. A takes an opinion strip and completes the opinion orally, without writing anything on the strip. (Note that the solid line means that the learner has to supply information and the dots indicate where he/she should begin to express his/her opinion.) B takes a response card and responds accordingly, expanding on his/her response by giving reasons for his/her view. (Emphasise that responses should be positive or negative based on what is written on the response card, <u>not</u> on the learner's own opinion.) Learners place used cards, face up, in two separate piles. B now takes an opinion strip and A takes a response card. A and B continue taking turns until all the cards have been used.

> **Extension**
> - Gather feedback on the opinions expressed, establishing which were the most commonly expressed. Then take a vote on how many learners really agree/disagree with them.
> - If learners are keen to pursue the discussion, continue debate to find the 'most agreed with' and 'most disagreed with' opinion(s).

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Opinion strips

✂ -

1 It's silly that everyone learns the same foreign language. If everyone learned
_____ , …

✂ -

2 One thing that would help the environment is if everyone …

- -

3 It would really help the economy if the government …

- -

4 This school would be better if …

- -

5 _____ *<name of the town/city where you are studying>*
would be a nicer place if …

- -

6 If people could _____ , …

- -

7 The biggest problem facing the world today is …

- -

8 The hardest thing about learning English is …

- -

9 If people really wanted to reduce their carbon footprint, …

- -

10 All the countries of the world should get together to …

- -

Response cards

✂ -

a	✗	Sorry, but …	**f**	✓	Absolutely! And ...
b	✗	But don't you think that …	**g**	✓	I know what you mean …
c	✗	I'm not sure about that because …	**h**	✓	You're right, and …
d	✗	That's true, but …	**i**	✓	Yes, and …
e	✗	Well, I don't really agree …	**j**	✓	That's a good point. …