

Activity 1

Discuss the following questions with your partner.

1. How acceptable is it in your culture to express your opinion in public (e.g. at work, at parties)?
2. What happens in your culture if someone starts talking about an unacceptable subject in public?
3. Do you avoid controversial topics of conversation or do you enjoy lively debates?
4. Have you ever expressed an opinion on a controversial subject in public? (e.g. to a colleague, in an English lesson) If so, what happened?

Activity 2

With your partner decide which of the following are not acceptable topics for an English lesson: a) in your country, and b) in another country. Give reasons and add other topics if you wish.

Addiction	Phobias
Bullying	Politics
Corruption	Pollution
Civil Rights	Poverty
Equality of the sexes	Royalty
Euthanasia	Religion
Ghosts	Sanitation
Love and Marriage	Swear words
Medical problems	Terrorism
Money	The Death Penalty
Nudity	The Recession
Obesity	Trade Unions

Activity 3

Work with your partner to define the following words connected with controversy.

Argument
Discussion
Debate
Quarrel
Dispute
Misunderstanding
Disagreement

Activity 4

Use the following questions to begin a conversation with your partner.

1. How important do you think freedom of speech is?
2. Should freedom of speech be limited sometimes? If so, how should it be limited, and in what circumstances? (e.g. in court, in the media, in literature, in schools, etc.)
3. What would you do if your teacher started teaching a lesson on an unacceptable topic?
4. How appropriate do you think it is to discuss controversial topics in English lessons?
5. What conversation topics do you think cause controversy in your English teacher's country of origin?

Activity 5

Go to **EnglishClub.com** and click on the 'TP Homework' icon. Use the information you find there to answer the questions below.

1. Which of the following is not mentioned in the TP Homework?
a) Freedom of Thought b) Freedom of Speech c) Freedom of Expression
2. Who said 'I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it!'
3. What is the answer to the Quick Quiz?

Activity 6

**'One person's meat is another person's poison.
Either all topics are controversial or none are'. Discuss.**

If you would like to express your opinion on this subject go to **EnglishClub.com** and click on the 'TP Discussion' icon to take part in the forum discussion there.

N.B. Netiquette! PLEASE CHANGE THE DEFAULT SUBJECT LINE TO INDICATE THE OPINIONS IN YOUR POST BECAUSE IN A BUSY THREAD IT HELPS PEOPLE DECIDE WHICH POSTS TO READ!

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