



# For and against

Lesson code: 119C-L6CF-HZ2P

INTERMEDIATE

American English

## 1 Warm-up

What type of vacations do you enjoy? Why?

## 2 Visiting places

Match the words and phrases on the left with their correct definitions on the right:

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1. sightseeing        | a. a person who lives in a particular area   |
| 2. nightlife          | b. a place, for example a store or a night club, which sells expensive goods or services to tourists |
| 3. a tourist trap     | c. entertainment and social activities which happen in the evening                                   |
| 4. a local            | d. in very bad condition, needs to be repaired or rebuilt  |
| 5. run-down           | e. the level of material comfort that people have in a particular society                            |
| 6. the tourist trade  | f. the tourism business or industry  |
| 7. standard of living | g. visiting interesting places, especially when you are on vacation                                  |

## 3 Listening

Audio:



Alice, Simon, and George visit a historical European town which has become very popular with visitors in the past few years. Read the sentences below about the positive and negative effects of the recent tourism explosion and then listen to the opinions of the three visitors, putting 'A' (Alice), 'S' (Simon), or 'G' (George) next to each sentence.

Video:



1. Local business has benefited. S
2. Unemployment is lower and the standard of living has improved. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The infrastructure and transport system still need a lot of work. \_\_\_\_\_
4. The nightlife attracts tourists who drink too much and behave badly. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The local government is able to maintain and restore old buildings. \_\_\_\_\_
6. The new hotels look awful. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Tourist traps, fast food restaurants, hotels, and souvenir shops have ruined the character of the town. \_\_\_\_\_



## 4 Discussing opinions

Study the expressions below. Listen to the discussion again and tick the ones that you hear.

### ASKING FOR AN OPINION

What do you think?

What's your opinion about ...?

### GIVING AN OPINION

I think ...

In my opinion,

I feel ...

I would say ...

### GIVING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On top of that,

What's more,

### INTRODUCING A CONTRAST

However,

But on the other hand,

### AGREEING

I totally agree with that.

That's true.

Absolutely

You're right.

### PARTIALLY AGREEING

That may be true, but ...

You could be right, but ...

You're right up to a point, but ...

### DISAGREEING

I disagree.

I'm not sure about that, to be honest.

You must be joking!

Come on!

Sometimes it is more polite to disagree 'tentatively' with someone else's opinion, even if you do not agree at all. Can you think of any situations in which you would use this tactic more than usual?

Put +++ (strong disagreement), ++ (disagreement) or + (tentative disagreement) next to each expression of disagreement.

## 5 Speaking

In pairs or groups, choose an opinion from the list below and discuss it using expressions from this lesson. Move on to another topic when you have finished, and continue until your teacher tells you to stop.

1. The best movies ever were made a long time ago.
2. Social networking websites are a waste of time.
3. English is a very easy language to learn.
4. Our environment is facing serious problems.
5. Smoking should be banned in all public places.
6. All politicians are the same.
7. Travel broadens the mind.
8. There should be more women in positions of power.



**3 Listening**

**Alice:** So, Simon, what's your opinion about the tourism explosion here?

**Simon:** I think tourism has really benefited the local businesses. Many businesses depend on the tourist trade, and they provide jobs to plenty of people.

**Alice:** Yes, I totally agree with that. Unemployment is much lower than it was in the past, so that's definitely a good thing for the locals. Also, the standard of living has improved a lot since I last came here. And just take a look at all the new cafes, restaurants, and shops that have appeared. There's much more choice than there was in the past. What do you think, George?

**George:** In my opinion, tourism has had a positive impact. But I think that the town's infrastructure and transport system still need a lot of work.

**Simon:** Yes, that's true. It's not that easy to get around. I also think that from the architectural point of view, the tourism explosion has had a negative impact. The town has some of the most beautiful medieval buildings and churches in Europe, but all these ugly new hotels that they are building look awful.

**Alice:** But on the other hand, the money that tourists spend helps the local government to maintain and restore the old buildings. Just a few years ago, many of these buildings looked very run-down, so tourism has really helped there. On top of that, the streets are definitely cleaner and safer than before.

**Simon:** That may be true, but I feel the town has lost its character a bit. I mean, there are plenty of places to go sightseeing, but for me it has been ruined by all the tourist traps, fast food restaurants, hotels, and souvenir shops.

**George:** Simon I'm not sure about that, to be honest. I would say the character of the place has improved as a result of tourism. The nightlife is excellent. In the center there's such a variety of unique bars and cafes.

**Simon:** Well, you could be right, but many of those bars attract the kind of noisy tourist who drinks too much and behaves badly. It's not always easy to find a place where you can simply relax with your friends and have a quiet drink.



**2 Visiting places**

1. g      2. c      3. b      4. a      5. d      6. f  
7. e

**3 Listening**

*Students can work alone and then check in pairs. Play the audio file or animated video. Alternatively, use your mobile device to scan the QR code (make sure you have installed a QR code reader app and can access the internet on your device).*

2. A      3. G      4. S      5. A      6. S      7. S

**4 Discussing opinions**

- ✓ What do you think?
- ✓ I totally agree with that.
- ✓ What's your opinion about ...?
- ✓ That's true.
- ✓ Absolutely
- ✓ I think ...
- ✓ In my opinion,
- ✓ I feel ...
- ✓ That may be true, but ...
- ✓ I would say ...
- ✓ You could be right, but ...
- ✓ On top of that,
- ✓ I'm not sure about that, to be honest.
- ✓ But on the other hand,

*Tentative expressions of disagreement would be used more often when the speaker needs to be careful not to cause offense, e.g. during a discussion with his/her boss, father, professor, etc.*

I'm not sure about that, to be honest (+) I disagree. (++) You must be joking! (+++) Come on! (+++)

**5 Speaking**

*Encourage the use of expressions from this worksheet. Students select and discuss the opinions until the end of the lesson. Alternatively, initiate a discussion on another topic of interest.*

