

### ARGUING FOR AND AGAINST SOMETHING

- 1** Read the opinion. Do you agree or disagree with it? Why?

'We should ban all cars from the centres of towns and cities.'



- 2** Read the ideas. Which ones are pros (in favour of the opinion in Exercise 1) and which ones are cons (against the opinion). Can you think of any more pros and cons?

- 1 'Some people need to use their cars, for example because they can't walk far.'
- 2 'The air would be cleaner if there were no cars.'
- 3 'Some journeys would take too long if people didn't have cars.'
- 4 'The streets would be safer without cars.'

- 3** Read part of a conversation between Amy and Josh. Which ideas from Exercise 2 do they mention? Which point do they agree on?

**Amy:** So, what do you think about banning all cars from city centres?

**Josh:** Well, there are various pros and cons, but overall, I think it's a good idea. The main advantage would be that there would be a lot less pollution. The air would be cleaner, so people would be

healthier. Another factor is safety. A lot of people are hurt on the roads every year. The streets would be safer without cars.

**Amy:** Well, I agree with you up to a point. I definitely think cities would be better places without all the pollution from cars. But it's also worth bearing in mind the disadvantages.

**Josh:** Like what?

**Amy:** Well, to start with, some journeys might take a long time. The buses are really slow, and sometimes if you're going right across the city, it's quicker to go by car.

**Josh:** I'm not sure about that. Remember, the buses would be faster without cars on the road to slow them down.

**Amy:** That's true. But what about people who can't walk far? Elderly people, for example?

**Josh:** Yes, that's definitely a good point. Maybe taxis should be allowed.

**Amy:** I agree with you there.

### KEY LANGUAGE FOR ARGUING FOR AND AGAINST

#### Introducing the debate

*There are (various) pros and cons ...*

#### Putting forward your arguments

*The main advantage/disadvantage is that ... To start with, ... Another factor is ...*

#### Agreeing with an argument

*Yes, that's definitely a good point. I agree with you there. That's true.*

#### Disagreeing and putting forward opposing arguments

*Yes, but ... I'm not sure about that. I agree with you up to a point, but ... It's also worth bearing in mind the advantages/disadvantages.*

#### Summing up

*Overall, I think ... All things considered, I think ...*

- 4** Read the *Key Language* box. Which phrases do Josh and Amy use in Exercise 3?

**Josh:** .....

**Amy:** .....

- 5** A class is discussing whether their school should encourage students to use tablets to save paper. Match the sentence halves.

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1 There are various              | <b>A</b> it's a good idea.   |
| 2 All things considered, I think | <b>B</b> the disadvantages, too.   |
| 3 The main advantage is          | <b>C</b> not everyone can afford to buy a tablet.                                    |
| 4 But it's worth bearing in mind | <b>D</b> pros and cons of encouraging students to use tablets.                       |
| 5 To start with,                 | <b>E</b> you can't do art and design subjects on a tablet – you need paper for that. |
| 6 Another factor is that         | <b>F</b> that it would save a lot of paper, and that's good for the environment.     |

**6** Complete the phrases in the mini dialogues for agreeing and disagreeing.

good point I agree not sure that's up to a point

- 1 **A:** We need to use less paper.  
**B:** ..... with you there.
- 2 **A:** Tablets are better for the environment.  
**B:** Yes, that's definitely a .....
- 3 **A:** But tablets are expensive.  
**B:** ..... true.
- 4 **A:** Well, the school could buy a tablet for every student.  
**B:** I'm ..... about that.
- 5 **A:** We all need to do what we can to help the environment.  
**B:** I agree with you ....., but sometimes it isn't possible to use a tablet.

**7** Read the opinion and look at the photos. Do you agree or disagree with the idea? Why?

'Supermarkets should stop using plastic for wrapping fruit and vegetables.'



**8** Work in groups of four. Divide into Pair A and Pair B. Pair A will argue *for* the opinion in Exercise 7, and Pair B will argue *against*. Decide on your roles and prepare your ideas. Use these ideas to help you, and your own ideas.

- climate change
- convenient for customers
- keeping food fresh
- preventing damage to the food
- preventing pollution
- saving money for customers

Pair A (pros)	Pair B (cons)

**9** Work in your groups and have a debate. Present all your arguments and agree and disagree with each other. Then decide on your own opinion when you have finished.

**10** Tell the class your opinion and your reasons.

**Active listening**

Listen while your classmates are speaking. Do they present their arguments clearly? What phrases from the *Key Language* box do they use?