






How controversial are these?

Controversial (adjective): *Something that causes a lot of debate.*

- Together, decide how controversial each thing is.
- Remember, something is controversial when people in general disagree about whether it is ok or not.

Issue	How controversial?
 <p>Inter-racial marriage</p>	Very controversial <input type="checkbox"/> Quite controversial <input type="checkbox"/> A little bit controversial <input type="checkbox"/> Not controversial <input type="checkbox"/>
 <p>Holding hands in public</p>	Very controversial <input type="checkbox"/> Quite controversial <input type="checkbox"/> A little bit controversial <input type="checkbox"/> Not controversial <input type="checkbox"/>
 <p>Being gay</p>	Very controversial <input type="checkbox"/> Quite controversial <input type="checkbox"/> A little bit controversial <input type="checkbox"/> Not controversial <input type="checkbox"/>
 <p>Marijuana</p>	Very controversial <input type="checkbox"/> Quite controversial <input type="checkbox"/> A little bit controversial <input type="checkbox"/> Not controversial <input type="checkbox"/>
 <p>Having a tattoo</p>	Very controversial <input type="checkbox"/> Quite controversial <input type="checkbox"/> A little bit controversial <input type="checkbox"/> Not controversial <input type="checkbox"/>

It's controversial!

- Six people are talking about something controversial. Below are their opinions.

Bill

In my opinion, these do more harm than good and are a complete waste of money.

Jenny

I love these and I don't care who knows it. They are a lot more effective than dieting.

Paul

I'm on the fence. It's not clear yet how effective or harmful they are.

Amanda

To be honest, these are not really my thing. It's better to count calories.

Dave

There's nothing wrong with them. If they help girls look better, they are ok in my opinion.

Mike

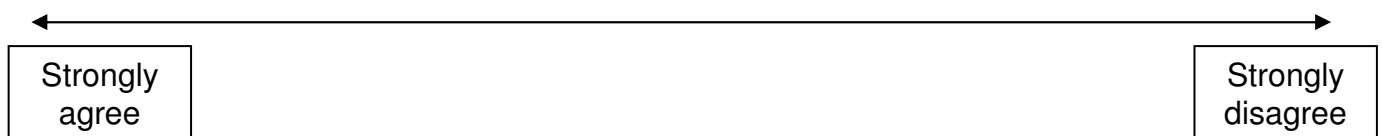
I'm indifferent. People can do whatever they like with their bodies.

Task 1

Can you guess what they were talking about? _____

Task 2

Write the name of each person on the "agree / disagree line" to show how much they agree or disagree with the controversial thing.



Controversial Language: Key Phrases

Bill

In my opinion, these do more harm than good and are a complete waste of money.

Jenny

I love these and I don't care who knows it. They are a lot more effective than dieting.

Paul

I'm on the fence. It's not clear yet how effective or harmful they are.

Amanda

To be honest, these are not really my thing. It's better to count calories.

Dave

There's nothing wrong with them. If they help girls look better, they are ok in my opinion.

Mike

I'm indifferent. People can do whatever they like with their bodies.

Task 3

Read the *phrases* in the table and then *paraphrase* each one using your own words.

Name	Phrase	Meaning (paraphrase)
Bill	In my opinion...	
Dave	There's nothing wrong with them.	
Mike	I'm indifferent.	
Paul	I'm on the fence.	
Amanda	...these are not really my thing.	
Jenny	...and I don't care who knows it.	

Different opinions

Task 4

- Look at the *original sentence* and then compare it to the *changed sentence*.
- Decide if the changed sentence has a stronger or weaker meaning. (*circle the correct answer*)

Speaker	Original sentence	Changed sentence	Stronger or weaker?
Bill	These do more harm than good.	These do much more harm than good.	Stronger Weaker
Bill	These are a complete waste of money.	These are a waste of money.	Stronger Weaker
Jenny	I love these.	I like these.	Stronger Weaker
Jenny	They are a lot more effective than dieting.	They are probably more effective than dieting.	Stronger Weaker
Paul	I'm on the fence.	I'm firmly on the fence.	Stronger Weaker
Paul	It's not clear yet how effective or harmful they are.	It's not at all clear yet how effective or harmful they are.	Stronger Weaker
Amanda	These are not really my thing.	These are not my thing.	Stronger Weaker
Amanda	It's better to count calories.	It's probably better to count calories.	Stronger Weaker
Dave	There's nothing wrong with them.	In my opinion, there's nothing wrong with them.	Stronger Weaker
Dave	If they help girls look better...	If they help girls look fantastic...	Stronger Weaker
Mike	I'm indifferent.	I'm pretty indifferent.	Stronger Weaker
Mike	People can do whatever they like with their bodies.	People should do whatever they like with their bodies.	Stronger Weaker

Changing opinions

Extension activity

Three people are talking about “cheating on tests”. Each person has given their opinion.

Task 5

- Make each opinion stronger / weaker.
- Remember, you can do this by adding / removing:
 - Adverbs
 - Modal verbs
 - Dependent clauses

Original opinion about “cheating on tests”	Change to be stronger / weaker	Changed opinion
Matt (agrees): It’s ok because you can improve your score and appear smarter.	Stronger →	
	Weaker →	
Jane (disagrees): You are not learning if you are cheating. It’s better to study.	Stronger →	
	Weaker →	
Rebecca (disagrees): Cheating while learning is a poor long-term strategy.	Stronger →	
	Weaker →	