

Lesson Plan:

Discussing freedom of speech (advanced)

LEVEL Advanced (C1+)	TIME 60-90 minutes
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Skills Focus

Speaking, listening, reading, critical thinking

Objectives

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Discuss and define freedom of speech in various contexts
- Use vocabulary related to law, rights, and society
- Analyze different perspectives on freedom of expression
- Engage in structured debate using persuasive language

Materials Needed

- Whiteboard/Markers
- Handouts: vocabulary sheet, reading passage, discussion prompts
- Optional: short video (e.g., from Amnesty International or BBC Ideas)

Warm-Up (10 min)

Activity: Think-Pair-Share

- Prompt: "What does 'freedom of speech' mean to you? Is it always a good thing?"
- Students write briefly, then discuss with a partner, then share ideas with the class.

Vocabulary Preview (10-15 min)

Words/Phrases:

Censorship / hate speech / civil liberties / offensive content / whistleblower / media bias / blasphemy / free press

Activity: Matching or sentence gap-fill. Follow with pronunciation and usage discussion.

Reading & Comprehension (15-20 min)

Article (simplified or adapted): "Freedom of Speech: Should There Be Limits?"

- Can use excerpts from real news stories or opinion pieces.

Comprehension Questions:

- What are the main arguments for and against limiting speech?
- What examples are given?
- Which do you agree with and why?

Discussion & Speaking (20 min)

Group Discussion Prompts:

- Should people be allowed to say anything, even if it's offensive?
- Are there differences in free speech laws across countries?
- Can social media be held responsible for misinformation?

Language Support:

Useful phrases for agreement, disagreement, interrupting, clarifying.

Debate Activity (20-25 min)

Topic: "Freedom of speech should have legal limits."

- Divide students into two teams (For & Against).
- Give prep time with arguments and rebuttals.
- Structured debate format: opening statements, rebuttals, closing.

Optional Homework

Task: Write a short opinion essay (150–200 words) on:

"Should hate speech be protected under free speech laws?"