

**An Introduction to Discussion Skills**

# **GLOBAL ISSUES**

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## Global Issues

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## Preface

After teaching discussion skills both at universities in Japan and at Global Bridge (one of Japan's leading corporate training companies), we want to share the approach we have used successfully with our students.

By teaching the skills and phrases that students need to take part in discussions, *Global Issues* helps you to develop your ability to have proper discussions—an essential skill to learn both for academic work and for your future careers.

As the title suggests, *Global Issues* focuses on a range of problems facing the world and how different countries are trying to solve them. For example, we look at how France is tackling environmental problems caused by fast fashion, at how South Korea has attempted to deal with online bullying over social media, and how education in Finland is getting better results than other countries.

We hope that you enjoy discussing these topics as much as our students have.

Garry Pearson, Graham Skerritt, Adrian Francis and Hiroshi Yoshizuka

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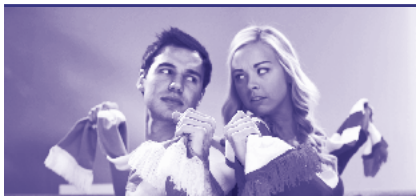
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# The Cashless Society

**GOAL:** Learn how to discuss opinions



## GET READY

**1** Discuss these questions with a partner.

- ▷ How often do you pay for things with cash?
- ▷ When do you use cashless payments?
- ▷ Do you prefer using cash or making cashless payments? Why?

## VOCABULARY

**2**  1-2 Read and listen to the sentences. Then match the words in bold to the definitions below.

1. I couldn't pay because the shop didn't **accept** credit cards. \_\_\_\_
2. I used this **app** on my phone to check my credit card balance. \_\_\_\_
3. I accidentally ripped a \$10 **bill**, so I fixed it with tape. \_\_\_\_
4. I don't like carrying **coins** because they're so heavy! \_\_\_\_
5. These days most **purchases** are done online. \_\_\_\_
6. I only **withdraw** money from an ATM once per week. \_\_\_\_

- a. paper money
- b. take money out of a bank
- c. a computer program, often for cell phones
- d. agree to take something as payment
- e. small, round pieces of metal that are used as money
- f. payments to buy things

# LISTENING

**3**  1-3, 4 **Read the listening tip. Listen and repeat the example sentences.**

## LISTENING TIP: Dropping *t* and *d* at the end of words

**Speakers often don't say *t* or *d* sounds at the end of a word when the next word starts with a consonant sound.**

1. I couldn'(t) pay because the shop didn't accep(t) credi(t) cards.
2. I use(d) this app on my phone to check my credi(t) car(d) balance.

**4**  1-5~7 **Listen and write the missing words. Then listen and repeat.**

1. I went to the bank \_\_\_\_\_ but it \_\_\_\_\_ I got there.
2. That cafe wouldn't \_\_\_\_\_ use my card so I went to the cafe \_\_\_\_\_.
3. I wish I \_\_\_\_\_ for more things with my \_\_\_\_\_.

## ◆ LISTEN FOR MAIN IDEAS:

**5**  1-8 **Listen and choose the best summary of the report.**

- ☐ a. All countries will probably be cashless soon.
- ☐ b. Sweden is going cashless, but most Swedish people are unhappy about this.
- ☐ c. Sweden may become cashless soon, but some countries are not ready yet.

## ◆ LISTEN FOR DETAILS:

**6**  1-8 **Listen again and choose the correct answers.**

1. What percentage of payments are cashless in Sweden?
  - ☐ a. 80%
  - ☐ b. 40%
  - ☐ c. 20%
2. Where can people not use cash in Sweden?
  - ☐ a. shops
  - ☐ b. ATMs
  - ☐ c. trains
3. According to the report, what is one reason that cash is still popular in Japan?
  - ☐ a. Because people don't think cashless payments are safe.
  - ☐ b. Because there isn't much crime.
  - ☐ c. Because it's faster than cashless payments.

7



1-8

Listen again and write the missing words.



## A Cashless Society?

Sweden may become the <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ to go cashless. In fact, some experts think that this could happen in the <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ years.

In Sweden, 80% of all purchases are made <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. Swedish people buy things with credit cards, debit cards, and an app called Swish. As a result, some businesses in Sweden have stopped taking cash. Buses <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ in Stockholm no longer accept coins or bills, several ATMs have been shut down, and many shops have signs that say "No cash payments."

However, not all countries are changing as quickly as Sweden. In Japan, only 20% of purchases are cashless. One reason is that there <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ crime, so people feel safe withdrawing cash from ATMs and carrying it in their wallets.

So, although Sweden is <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ to go cashless, other countries are not ready to change yet.



## CONVERSATION

### ◆ BEFORE YOU LISTEN:

- 8** Look at these sentences. Which ones are reasons for going cashless, and which are reasons against going cashless?

	for	against
1. Cashiers would not make mistakes with change.		
2. Small shops would have to buy expensive new cash registers.		
3. Carrying lots of money around in your wallet is not safe.		
4. People can get sick from touching money.		
5. Elderly people don't know how to use apps to pay for things.		
6. The government could check how people use their money and that they are paying the correct amount of tax.		
7. People would have no privacy, because computers would record all the items that they bought.		
8. Shops couldn't sell things if there was a problem with the technology.		

### ◆ LISTEN FOR MAIN IDEAS:

- 9**  1-9 Listen to a conversation between Tomoko and Marcus. Do they think that the world should go cashless?

1. Marcus thinks that the world should / shouldn't go cashless.
2. Tomoko thinks that the world should / shouldn't go cashless.

### ◆ LISTEN FOR DETAILS:

- 10**  1-9 Listen again. Which reasons from Activity 8 do they give for their opinions? Write the number of the reason.

1. Marcus \_\_\_\_\_
2. Tomoko \_\_\_\_\_



**11** Work in pairs. Practice the conversation.

Asking for an opinion

**Tomoko**



Do you think the world should become cashless?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

**Marcus**



I strongly believe that it shouldn't as small shops would have to buy expensive new cash registers.

2. \_\_\_\_\_

**Tomoko**



That's a good point.

**Marcus**



What do you think?

**Tomoko**



I think the world should become cashless because carrying lots of money around in my wallet is not safe.

**Marcus**



I see what you mean.



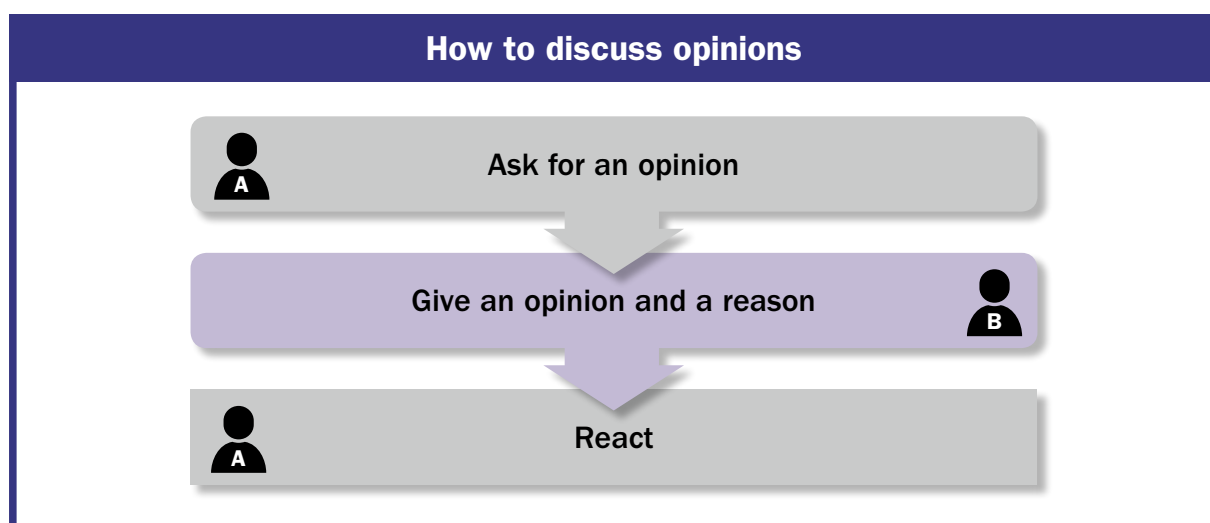
## DISCUSSION

- 12**  1-10 Look at the chart. Add labels to the conversation on page 6.  
Then practice saying the phrases in the chart.

### DISCUSSION SKILL: Discussing opinions

Asking for an opinion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Do you think</b> the world should become cashless?</li> <li>• <b>What do you think?</b></li> <li>• <b>What's your opinion?</b></li> </ul>
Giving an opinion and a reason	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>I strongly believe that</b> it shouldn't become cashless <b>as</b> shops would have to buy new cash registers.</li> <li>• <b>I think that</b> the world should become cashless <b>because</b> carrying lots of money is not safe.</li> <li>• <b>I'm not sure, but perhaps</b> the world shouldn't become cashless <b>since</b> people would have no privacy.</li> </ul>
Reacting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>I see.</b></li> <li>• <b>That's a good point.</b></li> <li>• <b>I see what you mean.</b></li> </ul>

- 13** Discuss this question with your partner: *Should Japan become cashless?*  
Use the phrases in Activity 12 and the diagram below to help you.



**A:** *Some people think that Japan should go cashless. What do you think?*

**B:** *I think that ...*