Academic English and language of concession speaking
academic vocabulary/ looking at both sides

Choose one of the statements below that you think it is impossible to contradict, and say it to your partner. They must try and make a true sentence with a concession expression like those in the box, then take turns doing the same.

Useful language of concession
But, (and) yet
However, nevertheless, nonetheless
Although, even though
Despite, in spite of, notwithstanding
You could also argue that…/ It could also be argued that…
Another point of view is that…
Looking at it another way…
On the other hand, a substantial minority of people think that…
However, it is no contradiction to say that…
Notwithstanding…, we shouldn't forget that…

Statements to try to contradict

- There are a large number of people in the world
- Pets are good company for lonely people
- *Immature* people do not make good parents
- Governments need to *maximise* economic growth
- *Mediation* can help a couple who are in conflict
- *Immigration* causes difficulties for the welfare state of the receiving country
- Most governments try to *minimalise* poverty
- The law in every country needs to be *modified*
- Being around *negative* people is depressing
- Most sexual attraction is not *mutual*
- You can't be *objective* about your own children
- The *norms* of societies vary from culture to culture
- Wealth for all people is not *obtainable*
- It is not possible for everyone to work in professional *occupations*
- The *odds* in a casino are always against you
- Voluntary carbon *offsetting* cuts into the profits of companies which are green whilst leaving the selfish companies free to do what they like
- There is an *overlap* between the powers of the World Bank and the IMF
- There is little *scope* for governments to put up taxes in a recession

When your teacher stops you, ask about any language in the box you aren't sure about, working together to use it to contradict statements from above each time.

Ask about any sentences above you aren't sure about, working together to contradict them each time. Then change partners. Do the first activity again, but this time with your own ideas for incontrovertible sentences, if possible without looking above.

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