

Listen to five people talking about different situations they have been in. Choose from the list (A–F) what is happening in each situation. Use the letters only once. There is one extra letter that you do not need to use.

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|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| A warning someone about something | Speaker 1: [] |
| B denying something | Speaker 2: [] |
| C refusing to do something | Speaker 3: [] |
| D reminding someone of something | Speaker 4: [] |
| E advising someone | Speaker 5: [] |
| F avoiding something | |

Select the correct words.

- 1 The boss **shouldn't have** / **might not have** looked at our emails. It was very wrong of him.
- 2 I **might have** / **must have** seen that actress in a play, but I can't remember.
- 3 You **shouldn't have argued** / **shouldn't argue** with her. She was really offended!
- 4 They look guilty. They **must have** / **should have** been misbehaving!
- 5 I suppose I **could have** / **must have** denied it, but I decided to tell the truth.
- 6 They **may have** / **must have** finished their walk by now. It's too dark to see anything.
- 7 You **must have** / **couldn't have** seen Billy. He's on vacation right now.
- 8 Christina **couldn't have** / **mustn't have** gotten engaged – she's only known Bradley for six weeks!

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in parentheses.

- 1 Sian admitted that she'd rather we _____ (not go) to the wedding.
- 2 Would you rather _____ (have) more free time or more money?
- 3 I'd rather you _____ (not argue) about the housework. Let's clean up together!
- 4 Actually, I'd rather _____ (not watch) that film. I've heard it's pretty scary.
- 5 Miguel says he'd rather you _____ (pick) him up at 8:00 instead of 8:30.
- 6 Would you rather _____ (eat) out tonight, or stay in?

Choose the correct word.

- 1 I have that movie on DVD. I could **lend** / **borrow** it to you if you like.
- 2 Have you **noticed** / **realized** that new pizza place on Third Avenue?
- 3 I **advise** / **warn** you to keep practicing your acting skills – you have a lot of talent!
- 4 In this session, we'll **argue** / **discuss** the plot of the movie and give our opinions on it.
- 5 That's the jewelry store that was **robbed** / **stolen** last week.
- 6 Please **remember** / **remind** me to call Carol and invite her to the movie.
- 7 According to a recent report, unemployment has **risen** / **raised** again this month.
- 8 The trouble with Jeremy is that he **refuses** / **denies** to accept that he needs to do housework, too.
- 9 We didn't agree with her decision but we couldn't **avoid** / **prevent** her from taking the job.
- 10 I really don't **matter** / **mind** if you borrow my bike – you're welcome to use it.
- 11 I **hope** / **wish** Filip was here. He'd know how to fix this.

Read the blog post about arguing traditions. Five sentences have been removed. Which sentence (A–F) fits each blank (1–5)? There is one extra sentence that you do not need to use.

Fight or Flyte?

If you're a regular follower of my blog, you'll know that I'm a speaker in my local debate club as well as an amateur historian. Now, you may know that recently I've been doing some research. I'm fascinated by the art of debating, arguing, disagreeing, whatever you want to call it. Even the most mild-mannered of us argue sometimes. Cultures have their own techniques, rules, and etiquette when it comes to arguing – we all argue whether it's face-to-face or online. (1)

So, basically, as far back as the Vikings, people were having rap battles. Yes, you heard me correctly. You're all familiar with modern-day rap music even if you don't particularly like it. You may have heard of "rap battles," or seen them on TV, or been to one and seen it live. If you don't know them, it's where two rappers get together and have a kind of rapping competition. One rapper makes up a short rap about a minute or so long about his opponent, and then the other rapper responds with his own rap. (2) Anyway, the rap battle rhymes are high-speed and designed to offend the opponent, but they are also very clever. In the end, the crowd that's watching decides who the winner is. The modern rap battle tradition is supposed to have started on the streets of Brooklyn and the Bronx in New York City sometime in the 1970s or early 80s, but its origins are perhaps more ancient than that.

So, the first example I've found of rap battles goes way back in history to the time when the Vikings of Scandinavia told fireside tales of the mythical Norse gods. It's not surprising that these stories were popular then – they had all the elements of a good story: drama, love, and violence. (3) But here's something that might surprise you about those powerful Norse gods: they didn't always solve their disagreements by fighting – they used words. Norse literature tells of the mischievous Loki, who was famous for his ability to offend and

insult his rivals. He would accuse them of all sorts of crimes, criticize their clothing, and tease them for being weak or cowardly. His opponent would have to defend himself with words, with each trying to win the argument with the smartest insult. The existence of such stories suggests that word battles played an important role in Viking society, despite the fact that the Vikings were famous for being fierce warriors in real battles.

This tradition of competitive arguments is recorded in Scottish history, too. The name *flyting* comes from the old Scottish word for “arguing.” The flyting tradition was most popular in the 15th and 16th centuries and involved a contest between rival poets. The arguments were famously fierce but generally good-natured. (4)

Flyting was also a popular form of entertainment in England, where it was often performed for the amusement of royalty. People must have gotten a lot of entertainment out of arguing with each other back then, although I’m glad the kind of debates we have at the debate club are a bit less dramatic. (5) However, examples of it appear in many famous works of Scandinavian and European literature including *Beowulf*, Shakespeare’s plays, and the poems of Robert Burns – and, of course, in the music of today’s rap artists.

- A The kind of ingredients that make a great TV show nowadays.
- B Despite this, it is scientifically proven that it’s human nature to disagree, argue, and debate.
- C There isn’t a great deal written about the actual history and development of flyting.
- D So, I thought I’d share with you some of the interesting ways people have settled arguments from the past to the present.
- E It’s actually kind of like a formal debate, where one person gives their arguments, the opponent listens, and then takes their turn responding after the first has finished speaking.
- F Although the contestants attacked each other with words, they apparently had a great deal of professional respect for each other.