

44 Freedom of Speech

The aim of this lesson is to make the students use the key vocabulary and target expressions in a more natural manner.

Language Point

<p>Quite a number of places</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - quite a lot of places - quite a few places - so many places 	
<p>That's pretty harsh</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - that's very severe - that's quite ruthless - that's really terrible - that's rather cruel 	
<p>That sounds very oppressive</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - that sounds tyrannical - that sounds authoritarian - that sounds totalitarian 	

Key vocabulary

censorship	norm	sacred	jail term
oppressive	blasphemy	defame	dictatorship

Part 1

I. INTRODUCTION

Everyone should have the right to express his or her own opinion. This right gives people the **freedom of speech** to publicly and freely voice their thoughts or feelings towards something or someone in whichever way they want.



II. PRESENTATION

A. Expressions

	Questions:
Quite a number of places	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Do you know of some countries that censor what their citizens say about their government?
That's pretty harsh	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Can citizens in your country say harsh things about the government?
That sounds oppressive	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ When can something or someone become oppressive?

B. Dialogue

Practice the dialogue with your teacher.

Toru: Question: what's the meaning behind freedom of speech?

Roy: Freedom of speech gives people the right to voice one's opinion publicly without fear of censorship or punishment.

Toru: Isn't that the norm of most countries?

Roy: In many countries yes, but there are still quite a number of places where blasphemy is considered a crime.

Toru: What do you mean by that?

Roy: Blasphemy is speaking out against God or sacred things. For example, in Thailand, anyone who defames, insults, or threatens the king or the queen will be punished with a jail term between three and fifteen years.

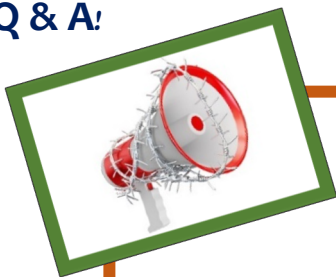
Toru: Wow, that's pretty harsh and good to keep in mind. Is that because those countries' political system is based on certain religious beliefs?

Roy: That is often the case but not always. Some countries limit freedom of speech to keep tight control over the population, usually in a dictatorship.

Toru: I see. That sounds very oppressive. I would not like that very much.

Roy: Me either. America is not perfect, but freedom of expression is a basic right.

Q & A:



- In your opinion, why is freedom of speech important?
- Is there such thing as absolute freedom?
- Should there be limits on what people are free to say?

Part 2

III. PRACTICE

Use the newly learned vocabulary and expressions in the following practice exercises.

A. Express Yourself

Directions: Express the things you would like to say to the following people.

the **Prime Minister**
or the **President**
of your country

your not-so-
friendly **Boss** or
your very strict
Teacher

a **Friend**
you had
a falling out with



B. Let's Talk!

Directions: Answer the questions based on your experience and knowledge.

Freedom of Speech



- **Should people exercise their freedom of speech even though it might disrespect a culture or someone's belief?**
- **In what circumstances can a person exercise his or her right to free speech?**
- **Do you think freedom of speech has been abused in this generation? Expand on your answer.**

C. Role-Play

Role-Play



Talk with your friend about some issues in both of your countries that are related to the freedom of speech.

Use the vocabulary and expressions you have learned.